

Harlow Star

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019

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Time for the Harlow Star to say goodbye

As the Harlow Star hits the shelves for the very last time, Charlotte Page pays tribute to the paper and looks back at its history

Full story: page 3

PRINCIPAL DEFENDS SCHOOL
PAGE 4



Plan revealed for new secondary school

REPORT: PAGE 5

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FOR BRIAN PAGE 32

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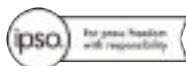
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A FOOLISH AND VAIN KING

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE PRESENTS THE TRAGEDY OF KING RICHARD THE SECOND: The Spotlight, High Street, Hoddesdon, Wednesday, February 6, 7pm

■ Simon Russell Beale plays William Shakespeare's Richard II, broadcast live from the stage of the Almeida Theatre in London to cinemas.

This visceral new production about the limits of power will be directed by Joe Hill-Gibbins, whose previous plays include Little Revolution at the Almeida and Absolute Hell at the National Theatre.

Richard II, King of England, is irresponsible, foolish and vain. His weak leadership sends his kingdom into disarray and his court into uproar. Seeing no other option but to seize power, the ambitious Bolingbroke challenges the throne and the king's divine right to rule.

Beale returns to National Theatre Live screens following broadcasts of Timon of Athens and King Lear, and his recent role in the National Theatre's critically acclaimed production of The Lehman Trilogy.

Tickets £15. For more details visit: www.broxbourne.gov.uk

MARCH OF THE MACHINES

HERTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. THE ROBERT KILN CONCERT FOR CHILDREN - MACHINES! Hertford Theatre, The Wash, Sunday, February 3, 2.30 and 4.15pm

■ Join Tom Hammond and Hertford Symphony Orchestra as they rebuild their Magnificent Musical Machine.

Children are invited to come in machine-related fancy dress... robots, vehicles, toys, and to bring their musical instruments. A great time is in store at the orchestra's annual children's concert with plenty of audience participation guaranteed.

Families should buy their tickets early as



See The 39 Steps at Saffron Hall

these concerts sell out fast.

Tickets: £8 adults, £5 children under 16. Suitable for ages two plus with their families. For more details visit: www.hertfordtheatre.com

BITTER-SWEET COMEDY

THE SHY MANIFESTO: Harlow Playhouse Theatre, Playhouse Square, Wednesday, February 6 and Thursday, February 7, 7.45pm

■ Seventeen-year-old Callum is proud to be shy and he thinks you should be too, because what this noisy, crazy world needs is a bit more self-restraint.

The Shy Manifesto is bitter-sweet comedy drama about a boy who is fed up of being told to come out of his shell.

Starring Theo Ancient (Harry Potter and the Cursed Child) and written by Michael Ross, it's been called "fun, sparkly and full of ideas."

Pay what you can. For more details visit: www.harlowplayhouse.co.uk

39 STEPS TO HEAVEN

THE 39 STEPS: Saffron Hall, Audley End Road, Saffron Walden, Tuesday, February 5 to Thursday, February 7, 7.30pm

■ Upper school students from Saffron

What's ON

NEAR YOU
THIS WEEK

MUSIC, THEATRE,
COMEDY... AND
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Walden County High School perform The 39 Steps, Patrick Barlow's stage adaption based on John Buchan's gripping whodunit.

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd, by arrangement with Edward Snape for Fiery Angel Ltd. From an original concept by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon.

Tickets £10. For more details visit: www.saffronhall.com

THE WRITE STUFF

WRITE HERE, WRITE NOW: Rhodes Arts Complex, 1-3 South Road, Bishop's Stortford, Tuesday, February 5 and Wednesday, February 6, 7.30pm

■ Contexture Theatre presents Write Here, Write Now, the Herts and Essex Festival of Playwriting 2019.

Now in its fourth year, this highly acclaimed festival is a unique opportunity to see the exciting new writing talent in the region.

In these two showcases, up to 12 new plays will be professionally staged and brought to life by local actors.

The audience vote on the winner each night that will go forward to the grand final in Hertford on February 25.

Tickets £12. For more details visit: www.rhodesartscomplex.co.uk/

After nearly four decades of bringing you the news, it's time for us to say goodbye

To mark the last ever edition of the Harlow Star, our reporter **Charlotte Page** takes a look at some of the times - good and bad - we have shared in the last 39 years

FOR the past four decades the Harlow Star has been telling the stories of those who have one to tell.

It's hard to imagine the town without its printed paper, but for now it's time to say goodbye to our loyal readers from the last 39 years.

While the office may have moved and faces changed, behind it all remains a team committed to delivering the stories that matter most to the people of Harlow.

And since the 1980s the Harlow Star has been there every step of the way.

From covering the likes of the town's rapid development, outstanding school achievements, petitions, council meetings - the Harlow Star has been the eyes and ears of the community for almost 40 years.

Our biggest stories have seen the community rally when they needed to most, namely, the death of Arkadiusz Jozwik, a Polish national known as Arek, who died after sustaining a brain injury and fractured skull following a single punch.

In light of the tragedy, hundreds gathered for a vigil in memory of him and a large-scale artwork was produced in response to celebrate the town's diversity.

The Harlow Star also has said a fond farewell to iconic music venue The Square, with campaigners having battled its impending development for a decade, it was finally forced to close its doors in January 2017.

Harlow is 70 celebrated the town's anniversary of becoming a new town and saw the welcome return of the carnival.

“All of our biggest stories have shown Harlow's huge sense of community spirit



Polish Ambassador Arkady Rzegocki and MP Robert Halfon pay tribute to Arkadiusz Jozwik
CHRIS RADBURN



Harlow carnival in its heyday



The town celebrates turning 70 in 2017

well as taking part in the sculpture tour - the only one in the world.

All of our biggest stories have shown Harlow's huge sense of community spirit.

We have also reported on the

town's taste of fame with Passmores Academy the star of Channel 4's *Educating Essex* in 2011 and more recently, Princess Alexandra Hospital hosting Emma Willis for a documentary on life at its busy maternity ward.

The newspaper itself has changed very little over the years, with the likes of photo of the week and the letters page remaining firm favourites.

But let's not forget the Rangers Club where each week one of our lucky younger readers became the subject of the ranger factfile and only those in the exclusive club were able to crack the code to the secret message printed.

Of course, the likes of these pages wouldn't have been possible without our loyal contributors, some of whom we have come to know well.

There are still plenty of exciting times ahead and we will continue to



cover these on our countywide website essexlive.news

Harlow residents can look forward to the town's new science park, combined with the opening of Public Health England's £400 million national science hub, hoping to give Harlow a global reputation for scientific research.

For what is a fairly small town, Harlow is an exciting news patch for any local journalist, and there has never been a dull moment.

A huge thank you must go to all our distributors over the years, who come rain or shine, make sure the newspaper is delivered.

We look forward to continuing to celebrate Harlow's rich history, culture and news for many years to come.



School is told its progress rate needs to be improved



Vic Goddard, principal at Passmores Academy, says the school prides itself on putting the needs of its students first

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BUT UNION ARGUES THAT SCORES WERE 'FLAWED'

By **HANNAH BROWN**

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A SCHOOL in Harlow has been named as not meeting the 'floor standard' set by the Government for pupil progress.

Passmores Academy received a -0.59 progress score, which is said to be 'well below average.'

The Progress 8 score was introduced in 2016 and is said to show the progress made by students at the school from the end of primary to the end of key stage four, compared to the progress of other pupils nationally.

Passmores Academy's negative score doesn't mean that the pupils made no progress, but that they made 'less progress.'

However, the validity of the floor standards has been called into question.

The National Education Union has argued that the scores were "flawed" and "arbitrary".

A spokesperson said: "The floor standards are predicted on the belief that rates of improvement will rise year on year on a continuous basis and that by rigorously challenging schools where this is not the case, such a rate of improve-

ment can be sustained.

"Yet academic progress is not uniform and linear and cohorts of children can vary considerably in terms of ability, disposition and prior attainment."

They added that floor standards assume most children can achieve the "average" but argued that for some achieving below the floor target in core subjects is still a big achievement.

The department of Education has announced it will be launching a consultation into the floor standard to see whether it should be replaced with Ofsted's 'requires improvement' judgement.

In its latest Ofsted inspection in May 2018, Passmores Academy received a 'good' rating in all areas, including quality of teaching, learning and assessment, personal development and outcome for pupils.

Additionally, statistics released by the government show that 96 per cent of pupils last year either stayed in education or entered employment, higher than the national average of 94 per cent.

In an open letter, Passmores Academy's principal, Vic Goddard said: "I am sure some of you

will have seen the list of school performance figures released yesterday by the government using a figure called Progress 8 (P8).

"The 'floor target' figure that is mentioned is a figure arbitrarily decided on by the government and it has no other meaning apart from just being a number they've decided to use to judge the success of a wide range of school intakes with one identical measure.

"The government would like all schools to study from a set list of certain "approved" subjects, normally called the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

"The subjects and examinations approved count in the Progress 8 figure but a range of others exist that do not, in science for instance.

"At Passmores we have always stated that we will continue to offer qualifications that best enable our young people to move on successfully when they leave us at 16, irrespective of whether they count in government figures or not.

"We are very successful in doing that.

"Other figures released alongside the Progress 8 data were for

those 'staying in education or entering employment' when they leave their Year 11 provision.

"The national average for this has been 94 per cent for a number of years but at Passmores this figure is 96 per cent this year and was 98 per cent last year.

"The matching of meaningful option choices to students' hopes and dreams is a decision that we have made to best support our young people.

"It is one that works for them and (sadly) against our school in league tables such as this; these challenging subjects, completed successfully and perfect for the students in question, having been deemed as less worthy by policy-makers, with their own ideas of what a curriculum should resemble.

"We are a school that prides itself on putting the needs of our students first and we will continue to do so.

"We do not pick the students that we want to come to Passmores and we welcome everyone; we will remain inclusive and seek to match their educational journeys to the lives that they would like to live. We offer no apology for that."

THE BIG QUESTION

See
pages
20&21

SCHOOL IS SET TO TAKE 120 YEAR 7 STUDENTS AS FIRST PHASE IN AUTUMN

By JAMES GREGORY

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@jgregorynews

PLANS for a new secondary school in Harlow, which is thought to be the solution to the shortage of places for children, have been revealed.

Sir Frederick Gibberd College will welcome a cohort of 120 Year 7 students in time for the start of next academic year this September as the first phase of opening.

It will be run by Burnt Mill Academy Trust (BMAT) and the first students will be taught in a fully functioning temporary building next to Burnt Mill Academy on First Avenue.

It will eventually be home to 1,200 pupils aged 11 to 16, with 500 sixth-form places.

This is while the Department for Education builds the school's permanent new home in Tendring Road on the site of the former Passmore School which relocated to Tracyes Road in September 2011.

Sir Frederick Gibberd College will be the latest school in BMAT's multi-academy trust, joining ten others across North and West Essex and London.

It is hoped teaching at the new college will be moved to the Tendring Road premises the following year as it is due to be completed in October 2020.

There, the school will offer an academic sixth form for students hoping to go to university.

Plans have now been announced



This is what the main building of Sir Frederick Gibberd College could look like
PEGASUS GROUP/CALEDONIAN MODULAR

Sir Frederick Gibberd College will eventually be home to 1,200 pupils and have 500 sixth-form places

Plans for 1,200-place secondary are revealed

by construction and contractor firm Caledonian Modular.

They involve the demolition of all the derelict buildings, to clear the site, and the construction of a 1,700 place school building over three storeys, a new sports block, an all-

weather floodlit hockey pitch, a multi use games area, football and rugby pitches and playing fields.

The main school building will provide modern classroom spaces to support delivery of a high standard of education, a school hall, dining

hall, drama studio and sixth form teaching areas. The sports block will include a four-court sports hall, two activity studios and changing facilities.

A consultation period is under way and the proposals will be going

on display at a public exhibition on Monday, February 11, between 4pm and 7pm.

The local community are invited to attend and speak to a member of the development team to share their views.

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News

Historic gig venue to have reunion party



Chris Martin and co playing songs from their debut album in 2000



Adam Smith managed The Square from 2008 and is organising the summer party

younger people in the town to do something to create a new, exciting live music scene in Harlow", he said.

"It would be tragic for The Square to end up as something that only exists in memories of the 'good old days' of Harlow."

Since its closure in 2017, other local venues including Phoenix Live, The Herald and The Shark pubs and the rugby club have played host to a number of local bands.

But nothing has quite filled the void as Adam explains.

"What is missing from the town, though, is the central hub The Square provided.

"People would go to The Square sometimes regardless of the bands playing, it was a place to hangout with like-minded people and it was also where musicians went."

Originally open in the 1960s, The Square became the bedrock of any up-and-coming band or artist to kick-start their careers.

It provided a sanctuary for local musicians and revellers in Harlow as well as other areas, pulling in unexpected stars from around the globe.

Coldplay performed on stage in 2000, showcasing tracks from their debut album Parachutes, which included songs Yellow and Shiver.

Going back further, a young band who went by the name of Seymour were hosted by The Square in the late 1980s – they would later achieve fame and fortune as Britpop sensation Blur.

The club was renowned for being a place to start your career at, and go onto bigger stages, sometimes around the world.

The threat of development loomed large over the site in the last decade and The Square was forced to close in January 2017.

But news of the reunion is sure to be welcomed by Harlow's residents and musicians from the town and beyond.

SQUARE'S SUMMER BASH IS AIMING TO INSPIRE NEXT GENERATION OF MUSICIANS

By JAMES GREGORY

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@jgregorynews

A HISTORIC music venue in Harlow which hosted Coldplay, Blur and Muse is having a reunion party this summer.

The Square, on Fourth Avenue, was pulled down in March 2018 in preparation for new housing.

But just under a year on from that sad day, and two years on this week since its final gig, there are still no homes built on the site.

The iconic club was a popular place for up and coming bands to perform – Blur performed there when they were known as Seymour in the late 80s.

It was also a great place for comedians to take to the stage, including Eddie Izzard and Southend-born Phil Jupitus.

So what better way to give it the send-off it deserves than a summer party to pay tribute to all of

the memories it has created over the years.

Dubbed The Square's Summer Reunion, the event will be hosted at Harlow Rugby Club on Saturday, July 27.

Headline acts have been approached but their names are yet to be announced.

It is understood the event will host acts who have played there before, as well as bands who would have done so had The Square still been around, capturing the ethos of it in one big summer celebration.

Organiser Adam Smith, who used to manage the venue, said he hopes the event inspires the younger generation in the town to create a revitalised live music scene, just like The Square did in its heyday.

"By bringing everyone together for a big event in the summer, I hope we can inspire some of the

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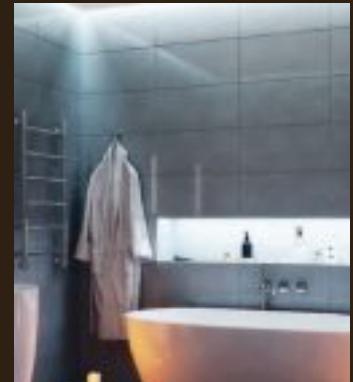
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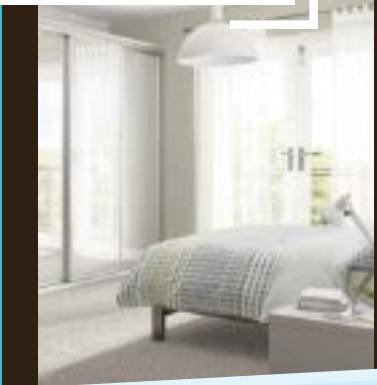
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News

Fugitive jailed on return to UK

By SOPHIE FINNEGAN

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A CRIMINAL who fled to Dubai on the first day of his trial and taunted police with images of his lavish lifestyle has been jailed after being extradited back to the UK.

Adam Ali, 30, was arrested and charged on January 11, 2017 after officers had attended his address on the outskirts of Harlow in relation to allegations of dangerous driving.

During a search of his house, ammunition was also discovered and Ali was given bail to return to court later that month.

However on the first day of his trial, Ali, of High Road, Thornwood, fled to Dubai. He was found guilty of possession of ammunition and dangerous driving in his absence and was sentenced to three years in prison at Southwark Crown Court on October 5.

Officers found that Ali was living in Dubai, where he appeared to lead a lavish and luxurious lifestyle.

Showing little remorse for his actions, Ali taunted police through

POLICE WERE TAUNTED BY 30-YEAR-OLD ON THE RUN

his Instagram feed, regularly uploading images of himself in clubs and driving sports cars.

In September, police were alerted by information on this account that Ali had been to the USA. An investigation deemed that he made the trip under an alias, Adam Khalifa.

Through the joint collaboration of Dubai Police, Dubai Public Prosecutors, Interpol, the National Crime Agency and the Met, Ali was identified coming back into the UAE and was arrested at the airport by UAE authorities on November 20, 2018.

Met officers travelled to Dubai on January 13 and Ali was extradited from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the UK on January 16.

Ali was held in a west London police station and appeared at Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday, January 22.

For fleeing while on bail and failing to surrender, Ali received an

additional sentence of ten months which will be served consecutively.

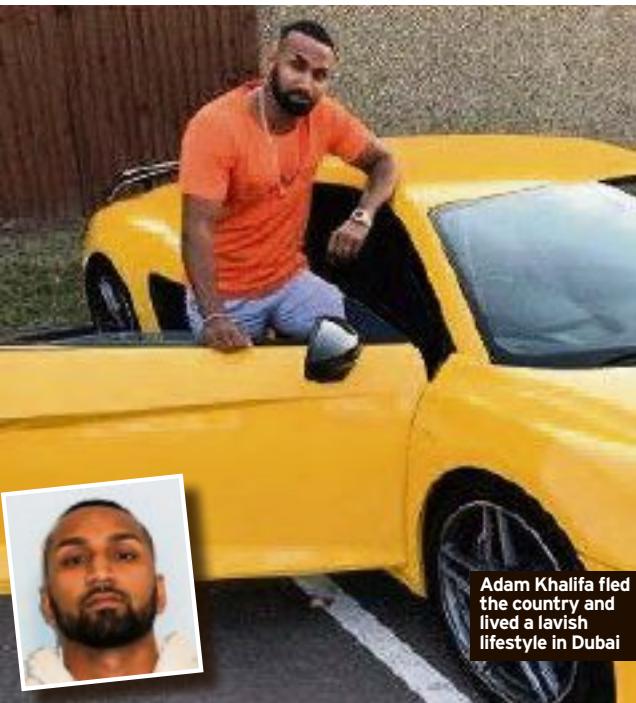
Detective Sergeant Andy Swindells of the Westminster Crime Squad, said: "It is satisfying to know that Ali is now where he belongs and will rightly serve time in prison for his crimes."

"A lot of time and police work has gone into securing this result and I would like to thank the NCA and our international colleagues who were integral to this success."

Ian Cruxton, head of International Operations at the NCA, said: "Ali fled justice to live a lavish lifestyle somewhere he thought his crimes wouldn't catch up with him."

"Our international partners - especially the Dubai Police and prosecutors - were crucial in helping to catch and return him."

"It doesn't matter where fugitives run to, we will do everything possible to find them."



Adam Khalifa fled the country and lived a lavish lifestyle in Dubai

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Anas Baig, 19, of The Hides, Harlow, has been jailed

TEENAGER IS JAILED FOR PAIR OF SEX ATTACKS

By ABIGAIL RABBETT

abigail.rabbett@reachplc.com
@AbigailRabbett

A TEENAGER who carried out a sexual assault and beat two women has been jailed for six years.

Anas Baig, 19, of The Hides, Harlow, was arrested after an investigation Bedfordshire Police's Emerald team, which specialises in cases of rape and serious sexual assault.

In December he pleaded guilty to one count of attempted rape, one count of assault by beating, and one count of assault by beating with intent to commit a sexual offence after the incident in Luton.

On Friday July 27 at around

1.35am, Baig followed an 18-year-old woman as she was walking home from a night out in the town with friends, before approaching her from behind and sexually assaulting her.

At that point, the victim's mobile phone rang, disrupting Baig, and she was able to get away.

Approximately half an hour later, another woman, in her early 20s, was walking along Alma Street when Baig approached her, offered her money for sex and attempted to sexually assault her.

Fortunately a group of men passing by were able to intercept and Baig ran off. Officers investigating the two incidents saw Baig captured on

CCTV, following his victims in the area before each incident.

In the case of his second victim, he was seen to be following her for a period of up to 20 minutes.

Detective Inspector Lorraine Coombes said: "These were disturbing attacks, where the offender targeted lone women walking at night, following them before assaulting them. Officers led a successful manhunt to locate Baig, managing this case from the outset, to a swift conclusion, with dedication and a keenness to see this offender apprehended before he could continue.

"I strongly believe, had he not been caught, Baig would have continued in his attempts to rape a woman."

Detective Constable Nicky Robinson added: "We are committed to bringing dangerous, sexually motivated offenders to justice, and to keeping Bedfordshire safe from such predators."

In summing up, Judge Andrew Bright, referring to Baig as a "dangerous offender", said: "What they experienced surely must be every woman's worst nightmare. I'm in no doubt you were attempting to force a woman to have sex, regardless of whether she consented or not."

"I am very worried that you are still trying to justify your actions. You display worrying beliefs concerning females and consent issues. Until those issues are tackled, you pose a serious risk of sexual assault to females."

He was sentenced at Luton Crown Court on Tuesday to six years for attempted rape of his first victim, with a further four months for the assault by beating.

He received 20 months for assault by beating of his second victim, to run concurrently with the four months handed down for assault of the first victim.

He must serve at least two thirds of that sentence and will be on licence for four years once he leaves prison. A restraining order has also been put in place in relation to both victims.

News

'Every woman's worst nightmare'

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News

Pupils told to remain positive

By HANNAH BROWN

hannah.brown@reachplc.com
@essexlive

PRIMARY school children in Harlow were inspired to face challenges head-on by a former teacher who lost his sight to a brain tumour.

James Shone spoke to students at Cooks Spinney Primary Academy about how his life was turned upside down.

Mr Shone had been a teacher for 16 years when, in 2012, he was preparing to take on his first headship.

However during a routine eye check, as part of his medical assessment, it was discovered he had a large brain tumour.

After 27 hours of brain surgery and 80 days in hospital unable to eat, drink or talk, the father-of-four was left with no sight in one eye and only ten per cent in the other.

He now works as a

INSPIRATIONAL TALK FROM BLIND FORMER TEACHER

motivational speaker and is behind the charity I Can & I Am which works to inspire confidence in people.

He told the pupils: "In 2012, I had it all. Everything was as good as it could be. In 2013, I found myself with no job, no house and no sight.

"We have good bits and challenging bits of life. That's life.

"When the bad bits come, do they break us or make us?"

Mr Shone told the children that there are three rules to follow in hard times. These are to look up, look forward and think of other people.

He said: "Keep looking forward because that is where the hopes and possibilities are.

"They are in front of us; do not look back. The past we can learn from, it is a great teacher, but not a great master. Just think 'can I learn from it?' and keep moving forward.

"Sometimes you might wake in a right grump. Do things for other people, that's a brilliant thing and is where you find your purpose in life.

"The alternative option is to look down, look back and look in."

Mr Shone still has 50 per cent of his brain tumour.

He told the pupils how he left hospital unable to walk, but was able to row the whole length of the River Thames two years ago with a positive mindset.

He said: "We are the CEOs of our own lives. Our attitude says 'I can' or 'I can't'. One of the most valuable things you can do is to be thankful for what you do have and what you can do."

One of the most valuable things you can do is to be thankful for what you do have and what you can do

James Shone



James Shone at Cooks Spinney Primary Academy in Harlow

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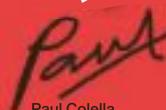
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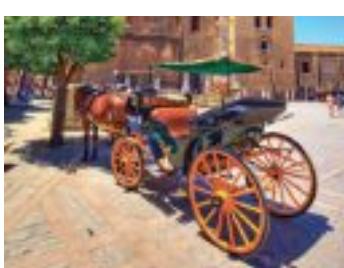
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News

Pupils voice library fears to their MP



Cooks Spinney pupils deliver their petition against the closure of Mark Hall library to councillors Susan Barker and Kevin Bentley

YOUNGSTERS AT COOKS SPINNEY JOIN THE FIGHT TO TRY AND STOP CLOSURE

By HANNAH BROWN

hannah.brown@reachplc.com
@essexlive

CHILDREN at a primary school in Harlow have voiced their concerns of a potential library closure to their MP.

Pupils at Cooks Spinney Primary Academy regularly use the library at Mark Hall which is near to their school.

The library has been classified by Essex County Council as being in tier four, which means it is expected to close.

To try and challenge the decision, the children at the school launched a petition.

Robert Halfon, the MP for Harlow, visited the school and was interviewed by the pupils for the school newspaper, the Spinney Star.

The children asked Mr Halfon how they could make their views known.

Gary Cansell, director of primary English for the Burnt Mills Academy

Trust group of schools, said: "The whole point of young people coming to school is so that they can become active members of the community and the wider world.

"The world does not just happen to them, they can change things."

"If you give children a sense they can do something and that they are powerful, that is the biggest thing to come away from this, even if it achieves nothing else."

Pupils delivered their petition, including the signature of the children's favourite author Michael Rosen who visited the school, to Essex County Council members Kevin Bentley and Susan Barker at County Hall, in Chelmsford.

May, who is in Year 6, said: "I prefer reading books because if you watch a film or are on a computer it shows you pictures, but in a book you can imagine it yourself."



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YOUR VIEWS

LETTERS

We pay enough in tax to expect safe footpaths

I WAS sad to read a story in your paper about a lady suffering from a epileptic fit after falling on a dangerous path near her home.

Essex County Council are liable and so is the district council for not properly maintaining our paths and roads.

We all pay enough council tax and it keeps being increased every year. Don't you think it's your duty to maintain these paths and pavements? There are a lot of paths and pavements need repairing as they are a risk to all.

While you are at it, stop irresponsible motorists from parking four wheels up on your paths and pavements - this is what is causing the damage.

It doesn't help when the police and council pass the buck on who's responsibility it is to monitor parking in this town. We agree to stop people parking on the grass and pavements but there needs to be better parking facilities created.

There are a lot of housing

developments going on in this town but alas parking allocation is limited so what ends up happening, I am not laying all blame on the motorists for irresponsible parking but I will blame the district council for not forward thinking, and creating more parking.

I do hope Mr Morrison puts a claim in against the ECC and gets closure from them. ECC and District Council do the job you are paid to do and get out there and serve the people. Don't give us talk about budget cuts, we all pay you enough. Accept responsibility for work that needs carrying out around the town.

One thing the Conservative-run Essex County Council and the Labour-run District Council seem to forget is that we, the people, can just as easily vote you out as we did voting you in. We want to see a service for what we are paying for.

Anita Long
Ukip's candidate for Bush Fair

We want to see a service for what we are paying for

Anita Long,
Ukip candidate
for Bush Fair



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Town centre in need of a complete rethink

WE keep reading about the empty shops within the town centre but with the way that spending trends are going the town centre needs a complete rethink.

The old market square has had a face lift but the square looks a complete mess with the empty shops around it and the old council benefits office is an eyesore and I cannot see any reason why anyone would want to go to that end of the town.

The council have wasted good money putting those umbrellas on the square and I have never seen anyone using the chess tables except for putting their drinks tins on. I thought the town centre was a designated public space? But you have people who drink alcohol

around the market square and nobody seems to be doing anything about this.

Another problem with the town is the amount of cyclist who ride through Broad Walk and the other areas including the Water Gardens.

They seem to think that it is their right of way and they take no notice of the no cycling signs around the town.

The police or Harlow Council should do something about this as someone will get injured and ends up in hospital.

The law states that you should not ride on the footpaths at all so come on let's stop the cyclist riding their bikes around the town centre and make them walk through with their bikes.

Steve Budd
Via email

Proactive approach is needed by the council

IT comes as no surprise to The Harlow Alliance Party (HAP) to hear of Tarina Coble's experience with Harlow Council when reporting concerns about trees close to their home.

A Freedom of Information Request made by HAP to Harlow Council last year revealed that there is no specific budget for the maintenance and removal of trees and that there is no programme of tree inspection to ensure that any deemed a potential danger to

residents or their homes are identified before a tree actually falls or causes damage.

The council simple reacts to an issue once it happens rather than being proactive before problems occur.

There are many instances around Harlow where in the 1950s to 1970s trees were planted close to homes which should be removed. HAP believe that Harlow Council should take a leaf out of what the council did in Epping a few years ago, when it removed hundreds of such trees but had a programme to replace every one with a tree in a location where it would not cause problems once it had fully grown.

Deaths have occurred as a result of falling trees in other parts of the country which has led to more and more councils inspecting their trees and then carrying out a planned maintenance programme.

HAP has taken this matter up with Harlow Council, their response shows a complete disregard to residents concerns and safety.

Residents who contact Harlow Council about their concerns should put this in writing and ensure they receive a written reply about what action if any the Council will take.

In the event of a tree falling causing damage, this evidence should accompany any claim to the Council or insurance company.

Nicholas Taylor
Harlow

WEBCHAT

It is with great sadness that we announce that next week's edition of the Harlow Star newspaper will be the last

Part of the team that launch the Star in 1980, quickly became the number one newspaper for Harlow. Sad to hear the news that it's being closed down.

John Arnold

That's so sad, a piece of Harlow history, I worked there as a receptionist many years ago at Wych Elm, can't believe it.

What you've been talking about on Facebook this week

Sarah Twitchett

Thanks for all the years you've given us the local news. I didn't get the paper every week but when I did it was great.

Brenda Nichols

How sad, I was an area distributor for you many moons ago.

Louise Weavers

I'm sad about this. I still liked to read the newspaper to see what was going on in the local community. I also liked the

Rachael Kenny

Oh no, what a shame. Have always loved looking through the Star.

Kelly Kempshall-Walsh

What??? Oh no, thank you so much for all your hard work. Good luck in your next Venture.

Ellen 'Morris' Downing

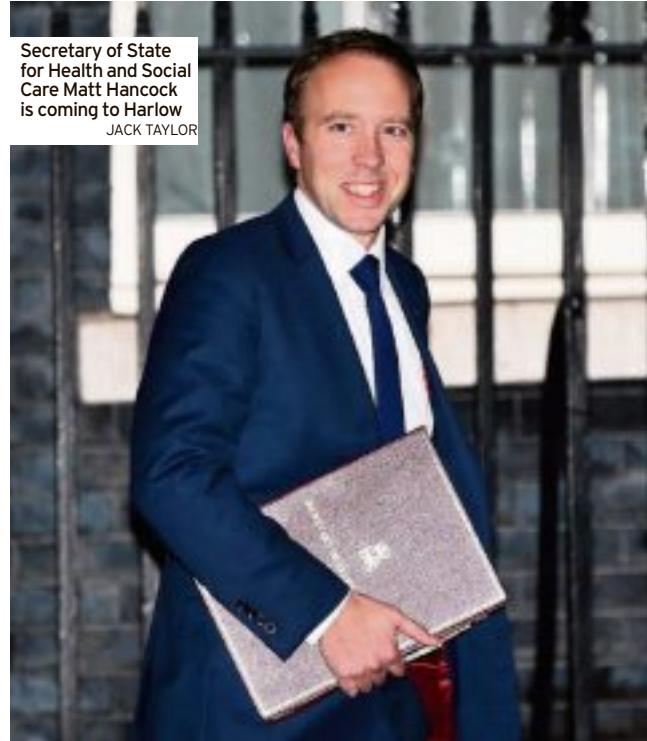
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Robert Halfon

MP FOR HARLOW



Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock is coming to Harlow

JACK TAYLOR



IT is with great sadness that this will be my last article for the Harlow Star, with the announcement of its closure, this week.

We have had a newspaper in this town as long as our history and it is a real tragedy for Harlow to lose its community paper.

For many without access to the internet, they have become dependent on the Harlow Star as their only source of accessible, local news.

I am determined to work out a plan of action to ensure that we have a publication back up and running in Harlow and am working with individuals in our community to make this happen.

I am fully aware of the financial pressures of sustaining a printed newspaper, but I have written to the Media Secretary, Jeremy Wright MP, to find out about funding opportunities, and remain confident that we have some incredible creative talent in Harlow to take on the challenge.

In other news, January is an exciting time for the Princess Alexandra NHS Hospital in Harlow, which will see the visit of the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock MP, in the next few days, after I urged him to come and visit, during a debate in Parliament.

I have been campaigning relentlessly for the funding of a brand new health campus, which would bring together all of our health services in one place, and become a skills and training hub.

With the move of Public Health England to our town, Harlow will become the science-health capital of England.

By inviting the Health Secretary to Harlow and meeting the incredible staff at our hospital, I hope that he will see our desperate need for greater investment, which would relieve pressure on staff and help with waiting times and services.

It is also not too late to donate to my sponsored swim for the Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust!

I will be swimming 110 lengths (2,200m) to raise vital funds that will enhance patient care, allow the hospital to purchase special equipment, improve facilities and invest in vital research.

Please support me via my JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/halfon4harlow

Over the last few weeks, I have been ramping up the campaign to save our Harlow libraries in Mark Hall, Tye Green and Great Parndon

- all of which are at risk of closure under Essex County Council proposals.

I am very grateful to everyone that has written to me so far, telling me why the libraries should remain open.

The brilliant pupils at Cooks Spinney and St James' C of E Primary Schools have also been getting involved, presenting a petition with me to the Libraries Councillor.

As we approach the last few weeks of the consultation (it closes on February 20), I would encourage you to keep using these libraries, write to me via email (halfon4harlow@roberthalfon.com) and take part in the online survey: www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation to show your support.

All that is left, is to thank everyone at The Harlow Star for their hard work, reporting on local issues and for bringing the community together over the last 30+ years.

I am also very grateful to you, the reader, for showing your support for our local newspaper.

Please be assured that I will do all I can to ensure that everyone in Harlow will continue to have free access to community news.

Tony Walker

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS



Inspector, Harlow Community Policing Team

IT'S been another busy month for the Community Policing Team in Harlow.

Student officers on attachment to the team have been out providing visible patrols in the town centre, during which they have seized three knives that were hidden, these are being examined to establish if they are connected to any crime.

In response to complaints regarding nuisance motorbikes we seized two bikes in the Willowfield area both believed to have been stolen, again these will be subject of forensic examination.

We receive a high number of complaints regarding nuisance motorbikes causing a danger on roads and footpaths.

We have already given out warning notices to owners/riders which gives us the power to seize bikes should they be used in an anti-social manner, if you see bikes being ridden inappropriately please pass us details of any index number, description of bike or rider or the address where the bike is kept and we will take action.

A warrant was executed at an address in Dadswood Harlow and a quantity of drugs and ammunition



for a handgun was seized, two females were arrested at the address and charged with various offences, they have been remanded into custody pending a court hearing and evicted from the address.

If you have any information you

wish to pass to police you can do so anonymously via Crime Stoppers on crimestoppers-uk.org or telephone 0800 555 111

Unfortunately there have been further distraction burglaries each time two suspects have entered the

houses stating they were present to carry out work on behalf of another agency, one person engages the home owner in conversation whilst the other steals property from the address.

Always be cautious if you are not

expecting anyone to call - you do not have to answer the door, always check ID, and say no to cold callers - if you have any doubt whatsoever do not let people into your home.

Sadly it is often the elderly and vulnerable who are targeted in this type of offence, please talk about this type of offence with your family and friends and advise them to be on guard if anyone unexpected calls at their address. If you have concerns please call the police.

We have increased our patrols in Harlow in response to an increase in anti-social behaviour and crime connected to the night time economy which has seen a reduction in calls.

There is a community meeting taking place on Thursday, February 28 at 7pm at St Johns Arts and recreation Centre, Old Harlow for residents to discuss any concerns with officers from the Community Policing team.

All of our future events are listed on our Facebook and Twitter sites (Harlow CPT) as well as the Essex Police website, contact can be made with the team via our email address harlowcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk or by calling 101.

TALKING POINT

Forget Brexit... so many other problems that we desperately need to sort out

THE BIG QUESTION:

With Brexit dominating the political agenda, what other issues need to be addressed urgently in 2019?

INDEPENDENT: Roger Keeble

THE morning after the "B" vote and we still do not seem to have moved much further forward on one of the most important decisions this country has been faced with.

However, today's question relates to all the news events that have either been placed on the inside page or not reported at all.

Fortunately the "Beast from the East" has not yet put in an appearance which must be a relief to our hospitals who, I am sure, are still running at more than capacity and looking to weather reports to see if the system will collapse if adverse conditions take hold.

I am sure that if there were more drop-in clinics such as at Harold Wood many of the minor cases could be dealt with locally and reduce the strain on our critical A & E departments. Similarly if doctors' practices were funded to provide a triage service for minor injuries hospitals would be able to concentrate on the more seriously ill patients.

Still on health issues we are constantly reminded of the increase in demand for mental health issues, especially for the young and adolescent groups. It is therefore surprising and difficult to believe the the "Mind" operation in Brentwood is closing due to lack of funding. With the NHS withdrawing its grant five years ago the service has continued with self-funding and donations which have now been exhausted.



The result is that four trained staff and a raft of volunteers are now redundant and those seeking assistance now have to travel to Basildon, Thurrock and Harlow to take their turn waiting for a consultation.

Transport is my final subject. Commuters are forced to pay for a poor service in rolling stock that is well past its sell-by date. Crossrail is late in completion and probably well over budget and HS1 and 2 are cutting swathes through the Green Belt to provide a service that knocks minutes off a very expensive journey.

Mrs May, whilst you have been negotiating "B" there are many matters festering behind the headlines ready to bite.



LABOUR: Chris Vince - Little Parndon and Hare Street

CLEARLY there are a number of huge issues, which due to the Government's obsession with Brexit, have been sidelined. Some of the largest of these include the lack of policing and the lack of government funding for education and the NHS. On a more local level the issues that people speak to me the most about when I am out canvassing are the dreaded potholes, not to mention proposed cuts to library services.

However, the single biggest issue facing this country is the lack of housing. This is having a knock-on effect on all aspects of people's lives. The lack of truly affordable housing is forcing people into a broken private rental cycle with rip off rents and inadequate living conditions. This, along with the Government's disastrous rollout of Universal Credit, is one of the leading causes of homelessness and the use of food banks. Inadequate living conditions will ultimately lead to ill health and add an increased burden on the NHS.

Although I recognise that the last Labour government did not do enough to tackle the housing shortage this was an issue that was caused initially by Thatcher's right-to-buy scheme. Selling off council house stock on the cheap to get votes might have worked in the short term but for the next generation trying to get on the housing ladder it's an absolute disaster. I am pleased to see that across the country Labour-led local councils are doing what



they can to build more council houses, despite the Tory and Tory/Lib Dem coalition governments making it more difficult for them to do so, and I know that the next Labour government will have a radical solution to the housing shortage. not just building the high quality council homes we so desperately need but also helping those people who have a history of homelessness to get somewhere they can call home.



The NHS appears high on the list of issues that need addressing
ROB BROWNE

LIB DEM: Marie Goldman - prospective candidate for Chelmsford

PLEASE, please, please, can we talk about something other than Brexit?

Switch on the TV, turn on the radio, flick through a paper and it's the only news there seems to be.

If you were an alien landing in the UK on your first visit to Earth, you might be forgiven for thinking there's nothing else to worry about. But of course, you'd be wrong.

Brexit has a habit of burying other important issues, but that doesn't mean they've gone away, we just don't seem to be paying them enough attention.

In September 2018, a new study found that 4.5 million children in the UK are living in poverty.

That should have hit the headlines and got the whole country talking.

Just think about it, that's roughly a third of all UK children living in hardship and more likely to have poor health than those above the poverty line.

Surely, we should be doing something about that.

Instead, Brexit is distracting our time, energy and resources away from dealing with lots of issues, yet it won't fix any of them. Brexit won't fix the NHS, with fewer EU doctors and nurses, Brexit will hit the NHS hard.

Brexit won't allow us to build more affordable houses, more costly materials, but fewer plumbers and plasterers will make houses more expensive to build.



Brexit won't tackle climate change, we need to work with other countries to do that.

Pollution doesn't respect borders.

Brexit isn't the magic answer to solving our problems, far from it.

Instead, it will only add to our woes and we will be talking about it for generations.

It's time that we recognised Brexit as the white elephant that it is, cancelled it, consigned it to history and got on with fixing the country.

UKIP: Jesse Pryke

THERE are few starker signs of a failing government than shop doorways lined with sleeping bags.

As benefits are cut and rents soar, Britain has seen a staggering rise in homelessness.

Even having a job now no longer guarantees you can keep a roof over your head; the Government has to put a stop to this uncontrolled immigration and build affordable homes instead of these large expensive houses which our children cannot afford to buy.

Almost 1.2 million older people in Britain as well as another one million disabled people are living without the social care they need for basics such as eating, dressing and washing.

Severely ill people are forced to wait to go to the toilet or wheelchair users who with no assistant to help them cook are now malnourished.

The rollout of universal credit has already created mass hardship, from increased food bank use to families being forced to sell everything to cope with the system's delays, with millions of families forced on to the chaotic system.

The National Landlords Association has warned this will see landlords refuse to rent homes to benefit claimants because of the way Universal Credit leads to rent arrears.

Cash-strapped local councils have to put aside emergency funds to help claimants.

The next five years will see the number of children living in poverty soar to a staggering 5.2 million.

As Universal Credit "two child limit" tax credits and child benefit freezes set in, the



institute for Fiscal Studies predicts the next five years will see the number of children living in poverty soar to 37 per cent.

As Conservative cuts set in, all the progress made over the past 20 years will be more than reversed.

As Brexit distracts us, this is no time to look away and forget these avoidable tragedies.

GREEN: Ben Harvey - Brentwood and Chelmsford

THE UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has given us 12 years to save the planet.

We are already six months into that time limit.

We need to lead the world in tackling the unfolding environmental disaster that looms before us, and we need to do it now.

There is abject poverty in this country thanks to ten years of austerity which the Government shows no signs of easing and a large proportion of this country voted to leave the EU because of exaggerated fears of migration.

This will only get worse as crops fail worldwide and large portions of the globe become virtually uninhabitable thanks to the damage we are doing.

One problem with our electoral system is that a five-year cycle encourages short-term thinking from our politicians.

Only things that will get them elected in the short term are considered.

Well, this is now a problem for the short-term.

Carbon dioxide is now at the highest level in the atmosphere at the highest levels since before homo sapiens first walked on the Earth.

In 80 years, at current rates of change, ten million people will be affected by sea level rises.



The only focus of our government now can be to cut pollution and carbon emissions before it is too late.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Bishop's Stortford

GLOBE CAFE: BSCA Church has started a new initiative to welcome people coming to the town from other countries. The Globe Café will serve coffee and a variety of cakes at Hockerill Christian Centre in Dunmow Road on Tuesday afternoons from 4.30 - 6.30pm.

BREATHE EASY: Bishop's Stortford Breathe Easy Group headed by Councillor Diane Hollebon, is a group for anyone who is living with a lung condition, and would like to meet and support each other.

They meet on the third Thursday of every month from 2-4pm at Charringtons House, Council Offices, Rooms A and B, The Causeway, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2EN.

Buntingford

DEMENIA SUPPORT: Hertswise offers fun and stimulating activities delivered in a relaxed and friendly environment, for people living with dementia, memory loss or mild cognitive impairment as well as their carers.

At Layston Grove, Keen Avenue, Buntingford SG9 9SU every Friday from 2pm-3.15pm, £3, no charge for carers, parking available. To book or for more information call 0300 123 40 44 - or just turn up on the day.

Cheshunt

STAY AND PLAY: Baby and toddler group at Tinytoons pre-school, based in the Laura Trott Leisure Centre, takes place every Monday 1.30pm - 3pm. Call 07508 707153 for more information.

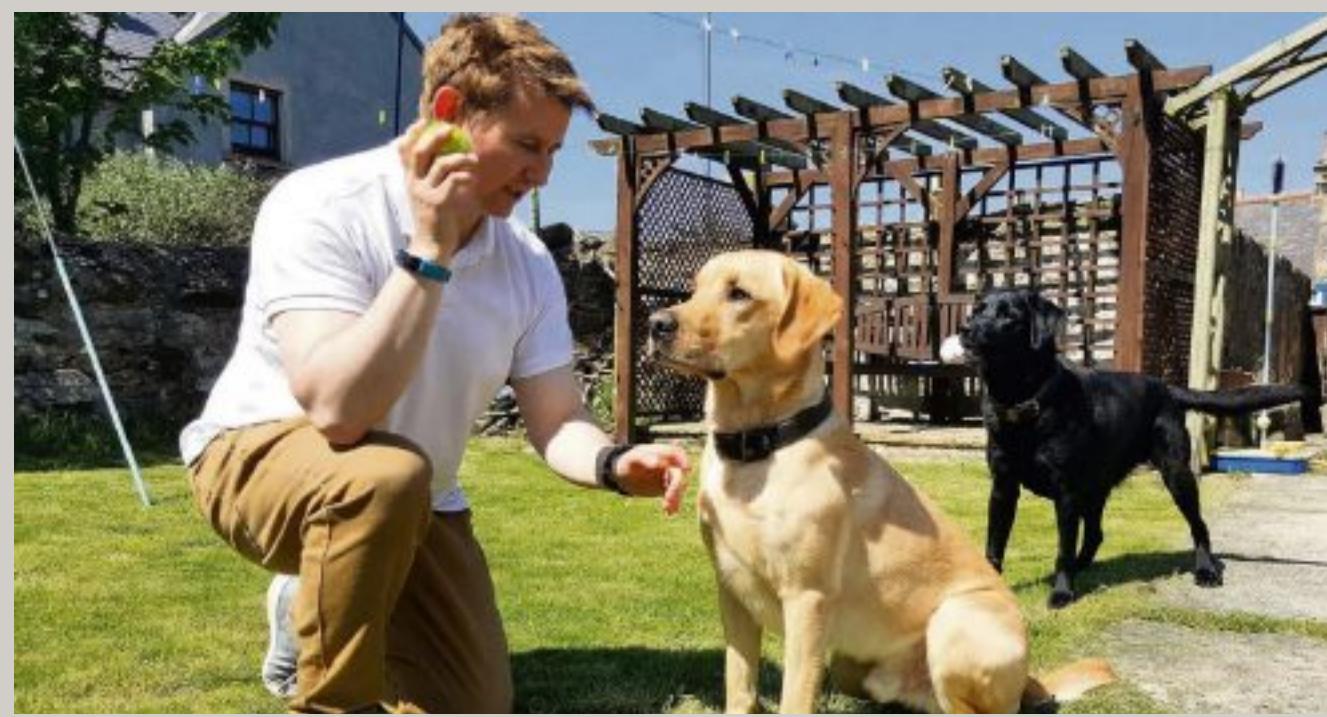
BROOKLAND WOMEN'S CLUB: Members of The Brookland Women's Club, Elm Drive, Cheshunt enjoyed a fascinating and informative evening when Jeff Nicholls, an antiques expert, was guest speaker at the club's recent meeting. He brought in a selection of period items and members took part in a quiz to guess their origins and who may have used them in the past. Members are also looking forward to the club's outing next month to see a pantomime at the Brick Lane Music Hall. New members always welcome, further details are available from Jean Hughes on 01992 632328.

Cuffley

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Next meeting Thursday, February 28 at 8pm - Talk by Caroline Broome on "Evolution of a Garden". At Cuffley Hall, Maynards Place, EN6 4JA. Doors open from 7.30pm. Visitors welcome. For more info ring Carol 01707 875742 or visit www.cuffleyhortsoc.org.uk.

Datchworth

BADMINTON SESSIONS: The Datchworth Badminton Club meets on Wednesdays, new members are always welcome. The club night begins at 8pm with a session for junior members, between 11 and 15, from 6pm. For more information call Janet Dinsey on 01438 350247.



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. WE WISH YOU

Great Amwell

QUIZ NIGHT: St John Baptist church Quiz Night on March 8 starts at 7pm - 7.30pm. Bring your own glasses and drink. Fish and chips or chicken or vegetarian. £12 per ticket. Held at the St John Parish Hall. To buy tickets please email bjbrace122@gmail.com or call 01992 447845.

Goffs Oak

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: The next meeting of Goffs Oak WI will be on Wednesday, February 13 at 7.15 for 7.30pm at the Village Hub, Goffs Oak, EN7 5ET. The speaker will be Frances Watkins who is a medical herbalist. The competition will be a perfume bottle. At their January meeting they had Jeff Bowden talking about Agatha Christie. The competition which was the oldest book was won by Jan Jones (secretary) with a book that dated back to the 1860s. Visitors always welcome.

Harlow

WALKING FOOTBALL: 50-plus fitness group. A great way to keep fit, newcomers welcome to come along and give it a try, £3 per session 3G pitch. Hosted by Paringdon Sports Club. Session times Mondays 4-5pm; Thursdays 10am - noon; Sundays 2-3pm.

Please call Dave on 07980 578201 for more details.

CHARITY EVENT: The Not the Royal Variety Performance is on February 15 at 8pm to raise funds for local homeless charity, Streets to Homes. It's organised and hosted by local comedian Clare Harrison

McCartney and promises to entertain.

The Fraudway Singers are headlining with their show. Local vocalist Cara Sheridan and the Voices of Harlow choir are also gracing the stage, as well as Edinburgh Fringe comics The Monks and comedian Madge Hooks. Britain's Got Talent magician Al Prendo Taylor and transgender fluid comedian Jenny B Side are also on the bill.

Tickets are only £5, but if you can afford to pay more then that is appreciated because they need to raise as much as they can for Streets to Homes. There will be a raffle and if anyone can donate a prize, that would be fantastic.

Tickets can be purchased on the door at Burnt Mill Social Club Harlow, but people are encouraged to book online to secure a seat. Book via at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-not-the-royal-variety-performance-tickets-54073815237

PILATES CLASS: Strengthen your Core and Pelvic Floor on Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays 6.30pm at the Women's Institute in Old Harlow. Pay as you train £4 per hour. Contact Milly on 07885 790167 or email milly100@yahoo.com

ART EXHIBITION: Chosen Places: Through the Lens of Memory at The Gallery at Parndon Mill. Until February 17. Open Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 5pm and Sunday 2 to 4pm. Parndon Mill Elizabeth Way Harlow Essex CM20. Visit www.parndonmill.co.uk, email info@parndonmill.co.uk or call 01279 426042. Registered charity 1168202.

Hertford

DEMENIA SUPPORT: Hertswise offers fun, stimulating activities delivered in a relaxed and friendly environment, for people living with dementia, memory loss or mild cognitive impairment as well as their carers.

At All Saints Church, Queen's Road, Hertford SG13 8AY. Every Tuesday 10am to noon. £5, no charge for carers, parking available.

To book your place or for more information call 0300 123 40 44. You can also simply turn up on the day.

WEDNESDAY WELCOME: Every week from 2pm-4.30pm a quiet space with refreshments, newspapers and magazines at St Andrew's Church, St Andrew Street, Hertford. Call 01992 504373 or visit www.hertstandrews.co.uk for more details.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL: The Hertford Soroptimists have enjoyed interesting speakers including a talk on the origin and significance of the poppies commemorating Remembrance Day and also one on how The Pretty Gorgeous Cake Company has become a well known business in Hertford. Two prizes have been donated to local schools.

The Jean Clowes Photography Award was given to a student at The Seie School and The Soroptimist Prize for Service and Leadership to a student at Presdales School.

The Club also supports the charity Lend With Care, which enables women to set up small businesses by providing loans, which are then repaid so the money can then be

used to support more women. So far, 14 loans have been given which have supported 173 people. For further information, please email sihertford@btinternet.com.

Hertford Heath

WI MEETING: Hertford Heath WI meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway. Come along to find out more.

Hitchin

RSPB TALK: Hitchin and Letchworth RSPB Local Group have a talk on Friday, February 1 by Peter Holden MBE 'Birds: Their Hidden World' about British birds and their amazing lives. At The Settlement, Letchworth SG6 4UB, 7.30pm, visitors welcome £3.

Hunsdon

PILATES CLASSES: Monday 2-3pm, Hunsdon Village Hall. A friendly and welcoming class. Pilates helps you achieve a balance of mind and body, plus focusing on stretching and strengthening the whole body to improve balance, muscle strength, flexibility and posture.

For more information or to book a complimentary first class (spaces limited) call Anne at Active Health Pilates and More on 07717 333234 or email: activehealthpilates@gmail.com or visit www.activehealthpilatesandmore.com

Hoddesdon

BEEKEEPING COURSE: South East Herts Beekeepers Association



How a waggy-tailed friend can help combat loneliness

VOLUNTEER dog cuddling is being offered by Barking Mad Enfield and Harlow as an antidote to the problem of loneliness in modern society.

For those who are retired or work from home and are spending large chunks of time alone, caring for a waggy-tailed companion on a temporary basis and meeting other likeminded dog lovers could really help to overcome feelings of isolation.

The perception of loneliness as mainly an issue for the older generation is now proving inaccurate, as a study from the Office for National Statistics

suggests that young adults are more likely to feel lonely than older age groups.

Due to huge advances in technology, the number of freelancers and remote workers is rising, with an article in Business Leader claiming that a 'third of business owners think that workforce will work remotely by 2020.'

Mandy Joy of Barking Mad Enfield and Harlow said: 'Whilst remote working has obvious advantages, working alone under pressure and not having the physical presence of a team to support you can lead to loneliness that can't be fixed by

any kind of app.

Caring for a friendly dog not only provides canine cuddles (far better than any virtual hug) but also the motivation to go and take a walk at lunchtime, increasing the likelihood of adhering to New Year fitness resolutions.'

The community of Barking Mad host families mainly consists of active retired people and those who either work from home, or have extended periods away from work. It offers the opportunity to care for dogs in your own home, while their owners are away on holiday.

'Hosts experience all the benefits of dog companionship without any of the emotional or financial responsibilities of full time pet ownership.'

To find out more about becoming a Barking Mad host, you can call Mandy Joy on 01992 350191 or visit www.barkingmad.uk.com/local/essex/enfield

Barking Mad is part of the Franchise Brands plc group of companies and is the UK's favourite dog holiday company, as verified by TrustPilot.

Contact Barking Mad at www.barkingmad.uk.com to find your dog's home from home today.

A Barking Mad host with two labradors

ALL EVERY SUCCESS IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVOURS

Course; Introduction to Beekeeping starting on Sunday, March 24 for 6 sessions from 2 - 4pm at The Methodist Church, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon, EN11 9ED.

There will be three information sessions, one practical session making frames and two Apiary visits (Handling Bees). £50 for all 6 sessions. Contact: sehbka-secretary@outlook.com or visit sehbka.co.uk for an enrolment form and syllabus.

If you are already a Beekeeper you are welcome to join SEHBKA. They promote and support Beekeepers in Hertford, Ware, Broxbourne, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Hoddesdon and many surrounding villages. They hold indoor meetings and apiary meetings.

Roydon

FITNESS CLASS: 50-plus fitness group, Move It or Lose it, takes place on Tuesdays from 1.30 to 2.30pm at Roydon Village Hall. All abilities, men and women welcome (seated and standing exercises). £5 per session. Call Belinda on 07974 721527 for more information.

PILATES CLASSES: Small group, Monday 8-9pm, maximum five people. £52 for five weeks. Includes small equipment and programme ideas. Men only pilates, Tuesday 9.30-10.30am, maximum five gentlemen. Pilates Specialist Studio on the edge of Roydon. Back pain specialist pilates, Wednesday 9.30-10.30am, maximum five people. £10 per session or £52 for six sessions. Restore your pelvic floor. Five-week pilates-based course, Wednesdays 8-9pm,

maximum five places. £10 per session or £52 for six sessions.

Back pain specialist pilates, Thursday 9.30-10.30am, maximum five people, £10 per session or £52 for six sessions.

Back pain specialist pilates, Thursday 8-9pm, maximum five people. £10 per session or £52 for six sessions.

Pilates specialist studio on the edge of Roydon. For details contact Heather 07801 493893 or info@pilatespecialist.co.uk.

PILATES WITH MILLY:

Strengthen your Core and Pelvic Floor on Monday's at 8pm at the Village Hall, pay as you train £4 per hour. Contact Milly on 07885790167 or email milly100@yahoo.com

Royston

LITERARY LUNCH: Local entertainer and Home-Start's Poet in Residence Jude Simpson hosts a chat with local author - Sarah Harrison on Monday, February 4 at The Old Bull Inn, High Street, Royston SG8 9AW. Buffet lunch from 12.15pm, Chat 1 to 2.15pm - with time for questions. Tickets: £15 by calling 01763 262262, email admin@hsrsc.org.uk or online at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/hsrsc.

All proceeds in aid of Home-Start Royston and South Cambridgeshire. www.hsrsc.org.uk.

Roydon

SATURDAY MARKET: February 9, 10am-2pm in the Village Hall CM19 5HH. Bread, eggs, honey, juice, chutneys, meat, sausage rolls, pasties, shepherd's pies, cakes,

flavoured gins, sweets, wood turning, gifts, soft furnishings, candles, children's clothes, crafts, horseshoe art, Forever Living, painted plant pots, crochet, greetings cards and historical maps and prints will be there. Refreshments will be sold to raise money for the Macular Society. Free entry.

Rushden

LACE MAKING: The Rushden Lace Club meets on the first Monday of the month in the village hall, and all types of lace are made under the expert tuition of Bridget Cook. Beginners are welcome to join the group, where tea, coffee and biscuits are supplied - although you will need to take your own lunch.

For more details call Eva on 01763 288357.

Sandon

GREEN FINGERS: Sandon Gardeners' Club meets every second Monday of the month at Sandon Village Hall at 7.30pm.

If you have an interest in gardening, go along and join. New members are always welcome. Contact chairman John Handley at: johnhandley5@btinternet.com for more.

Sawbridgeworth

MORRIS MEET: Fiddlers' Brook Morris meet every Tuesday at 8pm at Allens Green Village Hall near Sawbridgeworth.

Newcomers are welcome to go along and give it a try for fun, exercise and friendship and to help keep a tradition going. Musicians also

welcome. Call 01279 723707 or email neilandgillmunro@aol.com.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT: Hertswise offers fun, stimulating activities delivered in a relaxed and friendly environment, for people living with Dementia, memory loss or mild cognitive impairment as well as their carers.

At The Hailey Centre, 18 Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9AS, every Wednesday 9.30 to 11.30am. £5, no charge for carers or NOK. Public car park next door. To book or for more information please call 0300 123 40 44. Or just turn up on the day.

Standon

CREATIVE LITTLE ONES: Art, craft and messy play classes are held for under fives. The sessions are held on Wednesdays between 1pm and 1.45pm at Standon Village Hall.

Email Becky to book a free trial at: artexplorers1@gmail.com or visit: www.artexplorers.co.uk for more.

TEEN DANCE: DDMIX (Diverse Dance Mix) dance fitness classes are held every Wednesday at Standon Village Hall for teenagers between 5.45 and 6.30pm, term time.

No dance experience is required, just lots of enthusiasm and a pair of trainers. It costs £5, which can be paid on the door each week. Call Julie on 07971 699615 or visit: dancejamacademy.co.uk for more details.

FIT FOR ALL: Pure Stretch releases muscular tension, develops core strength, and reduces mental and physical fatigue.

It is suitable for everyone, easy to

follow, sociable and light-hearted.

Call Denise or times and classes on 01920 823072 or 07703 277862.

MUSICIANS AND MOVERS:

Put a jingle in your step and become a Morris dancer. Have a bash at Cotswold dance traditions with Standon Morris at practice sessions on Thursday evenings. The mixed side welcomes anyone from 10 years old upwards.

No experience necessary, and it is free. The group gathers from about 8pm onwards in The Star before heading down to Standon Village Hall at 8.30pm.

Musicians are also needed. To find out more, call Catherine on 07808 969379 or email standon.morris@gmail.com

Stevenage

JEWISH SERVICES: Local Liberal Synagogue welcomes members and visitors to the evening service on Friday, February 8 at 7pm. This will be followed by the very popular 'Bring & Share' supper. For further information phone 01438 300222 or visit stevenageliberalsynagogue@gmail.com.

Waterford

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE: Interested visitors to Waterford WI are welcome to attend, the next talk starts at 7.30pm in Waterford Village Hall on Thursday, February 7 and there is a visitors' fee of £2. You can also visit them on their Facebook page.

Widford

PILATES CLASSES: Mondays 6.45 to 7.45pm and 8 to 9pm.

Pilates helps you achieve a balance of mind and body plus focusing on stretching and strengthening the whole body to improve balance, muscle strength, flexibility and posture.

For more information or to book your first complimentary class (limited places) contact Anne at Active Health Pilates and More on 07717 333234 or email activehealthpilatesandmore.com

Wormley and Turnford

POP-UP CINEMA: Wormley and Turnford Pop Up Cinema happens on the first Friday of every month. The next film will be Mamma Mia, Here We Go Again on Friday, February 1. The venue is Wormley Free Church, High Road, Wormley, EN10 6AA. Tickets are £3 or 4 for £10. Doors open at 7, film starts at 7.30pm. Free refreshments. For more info call Michal Siewniak on: 07903 390649.

STEEL BAND WORKSHOPS:

All ages welcome from beginner to advance. Promotes teamwork, sharpens concentration, enhances coordination.

At Wormley Community Centre on Mondays from February 4 from 4.30 to 5.30pm. £2 per session per person. For more information email michal@wtbiglocal.org or call 07903 390649.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Site visit gives students a first-hand look at life in engineering industry

FIRM THROWS ITS DOORS OPEN AS PART OF LINK-UP WITH BMAT STEM ACADEMY

HARLOW-BASED manufacturer Gratnells welcomed school students on site for a day of activities.

The firm is a multi-sector manufacturer providing high-volume laser cutting, powder coating and bespoke metal solutions to a wide range of customers.

It has previously supported campaigns such as the F1 in Schools' programme, the Year of Engineering and most recently, has developed key relationships with educational institutions in the local area such as BMAT STEM Academy.

It has become a Gold Level sponsor of the school this year, which means it will provide support and opportunities for students to further their understanding of manufacturing and play a role in product development.

As part of the initiative, the Gratnells factory recently welcomed a group of 20 BMAT STEM students on-site, giving presentations about the company history, providing insight into areas such as quality control and delivering experiences such as tours of the impressive facilities.

The students were introduced to the different roles and responsibilities found in a typical manufacturing environment and were set an activity to evaluate a real, current prototype product using evaluation sheets, followed by making prototype designs and layouts for their own ideas.

Every student completed a feed-



Students on their visit to Gratnells Engineering

back form at the end of the day and these almost unanimously stated the tour of the impressive Gratnells facility was the favourite part of the day.

This included a chance to see some powder coating, injection moulding and laser cutting machinery in action, producing many of the classroom tools and equipment they use in school every day.

Students also had the opportunity to witness primary metal work, such

as drilling, tapping, folding and welding; as well as foam cutting and vac forming taking place.

The importance of health and safety in the factory environment was reiterated throughout with the wearing of hi-vis jackets and following of specified walkways and crossings.

Dave Ramsey, assistant head teacher at BMAT STEM, said: "The students had a brilliant experience and a number of them have said that

they want to work for Gratnells in the future.

"We really appreciate all the effort the team put into the students' experience both on the day and the impact working with the company is having on their learning. Students have been inspired and can't wait to start using some of the ideas in lessons and in their project work."

Chloe Winyard, Gratnells' engineering marketing assistant, commented: "The students from

BMAT STEM were so engaged and came up with some really brilliant ideas.

"We are delighted the tour in particular proved popular and we hope to have inspired some of the students to consider a future career in a STEM subject.

"Grantells Engineering has a long history of offering opportunities to students and just last year saw three apprentices convert into full-time members of staff."

No chance of getting the blues at shopping centre

THE Harvey Centre decided to tackle Blue Monday head on and help improve shoppers' moods by holding a free giveaway event.

From 11am - 4pm customers were surprised at random with free drinks, free meals, free parking, free car washes and more, randomly paid for throughout the day by The Harvey Centre's helpful helpers.

With so much free fun and a variety of free treats for customers to enjoy throughout the day,

customers left the centre smiling and ready to face the week ahead in a positive way.

Bryan Young, Centre Manager at The Harvey Centre said: "Our shoppers responded really well to this event.

"They were genuinely shocked and thrilled to have their food, coffee, car wash or parking paid for.

"Such a fun event and something we'd really like to hold again."



The Harvey Centre's helpers randomly paid for a variety of treats throughout the day

PETER BRANCH

**The Harlow Star will no longer be printing a local paper,
instead we will be focusing on our extremely popular online platform where
you will still be able to visit all your historic notices and now place new online notices.**

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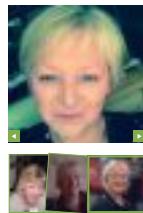
Place a notice over the phone by calling : 01462 504155

Deaths**Terence Henry ARNOLD (Terry)**

Died peacefully on January 11th 2019, aged 94 years, after a short stay in hospital. Beloved husband of Margaret, much loved father to Andrew and the late Susan and grandfather (Pop) to Lucy, Jess, Fraser and Hamish. Funeral service to take place at Cam Valley Crematorium, Great Chesterford, on February 8th at 12 noon. All are welcome. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, made payable to 'British Heart Foundation' or 'Alzheimer's Research UK', C/O Peasgood & Skeates, Shire Hill, Thaxted Road, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AQ.

Evelyn BAKER

Died peacefully on the 26th January 2019 at Princess Alexandra Hospital after a short illness aged 97. Beloved wife of Jack, much loved Mum to Julie and dearest Granny to Stuart and Jamie. For funeral details please contact Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP. Tel: 01279 426990



Add multiple pictures to a notice online

funeral-notices.co.uk**IRIS LILY COLE**

Peacefully in the Princess Alexandra Hospital on 18th January 2019, aged 92 Years. The beloved Mum of Lesley and Carole, Mother in Law to Dan, a wonderful Nan to Ben, Sam, Jo, Emily and Nicola and loving Great Nan to Jack, Evie, Lyla, Henry and Bella. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Iris's Funeral Service is to be held on Tuesday 12th February 2019, at St Mary Magdalene Church, Potter Street, at 12.30 p.m. followed by Cremation at Parndon Wood Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired to The Salvation Army. Cheques made payable to Charities Account. All further enquiries and donations to Masterson Funeral Home Ltd, Independent and Family Owned Funeral Directors, Station Road, Old Harlow, Essex, CM17 0AS. Tel: 01279 626238.

MASTERSON FUNERAL HOME LTD**Lilian (Lynn) CRIPPS**

7/2/1930 - 27/12/2018

Sadly passed away aged 88 years. A dearly loved mum to daughter Marilyn, granddaughters Michelle and Lauren, and 5 great-grandchildren. She will be missed but always in our hearts.

Add a tribute on your mobile



Add multiple pictures to a notice online

funeral-notices.co.uk

To make a donation for a loved one resting with DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Please visit the In Memory pages at:
www.drobinson.co.uk

Wych Elm, 79/81 South Street, Bullfields
Harlow, Essex Bishop's Stortford Sawbridgeworth
(01279) 426990 (01279) 655477 (01279) 722476

**DORIS EILEEN EATWELL**

Peacefully in St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, on 26th January 2019, aged 92 years. She is now reunited with her beloved Husband Eddie.

The loving Mother to Wendy, Marion and Yvonne, Mother in Law to Barry and Frank, and a wonderful Nan to Gemma, Helen and Toni and Great Nan to her 7 Great Grandchildren. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Doll's Funeral Service is to be held on Thursday 14th February 2019, at Parndon Wood Crematorium at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the Parkinson's Society. Cheques made payable to Charities Account. All further enquiries and donations to Masterson Funeral Home Ltd, Independent and Family Owned Funeral Directors, Station Road, Old Harlow, Essex, CM17 0AS. Tel: 01279 626238.

MASTERSON FUNERAL HOME LTD**DOREEN EMERSON**

Sadly passed away on 24th January 2019 aged 86 years.

Beloved wife of the late John, devoted Mum to Peter, Christine, Stephen & Martin. Loving Nan to Gary, Hayden, Darren & Jessica. Loving Great Nan to Aleigha. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. The funeral service will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Tuesday 12th February 2018 at 10am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired for The Alzheimer's Society may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow, CM20 1QP or via the In Memory Pages at www.drobinson.co.uk Tel: 01279 426990

Register today
to set up custom alerts



Set up custom email alerts to notify you via email when a matching death notice is announced. Alerts can be for Surname or Town/Area.

Register Today**Deaths****Ronald HOWE**

Passed away on Monday 21st January aged 76. A beloved husband of Pat and dad to Clare and Sarah, father-in-law to Paul, granddad to Nathan, Alice, Fleur and Logan.

Funeral Service at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Monday 4th February at 1pm.

Register today
to get these great online benefits

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Set up custom email alerts to notify you via email when a matching death notice is announced. Alerts can be for Surname or Town/Area.



As a member you can save any death notice that is important to you.

Register Today**Alan William JARVIS**

Passed away on 15th January 2019, aged 81 years. Much loved father of Kevin and Chris. Funeral service will take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium on Monday 4th February at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only, donations if desired for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance can be sent c/o Daniel Robinson and Sons Funeral Directors, 79 - 81 South Street, Bishop's Stortford or via the memory page www.drobinson.co.uk

Register Today

[funeral-notices.co.uk](http://www.drobinson.co.uk)**Geoffrey Allan LAMBERT 'Allan'**

Passed away suddenly at home in Sheering on the 14th January 2019 aged 88. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. Allan's funeral service will be held at St Mary the Virgin Church, Sheering on Wednesday 6th February 2019 at 2.00pm followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers or donations for the British Heart Foundation may be sent to Daniel Robinson & Sons, 3 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9DB Telephone 01279-722476 Alternatively, please visit Allan's In Memory page at www.drobinson.co.uk

Graham MERTON (FLUFF)

Sadly passed away on 11th January 2019 Aged 78 Years.

In Loving Memory
Missing you so much, an empty hole that will never be filled in our lives.

Until we meet again, rest in peace. A Loving Husband to Sue and Dad to Peter. Will be missed by all who knew him.

Funeral Service will be held at St Mary's Church Stansted on Monday 11th February at 2:00pm followed by Burial in Stansted Cemetery.

Family flowers only please. If desired, donations, made payable to 'Cancer Research UK', may be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishops Stortford, CM23 3AL. Tel: 01279 655477 Alternatively, please visit the 'In memory' page at www.drobinson.co.uk

Eric NEWPORT

Passed away on 14th January 2019 after a full and happy life, aged 95.

Much loved husband of the late Doreen, father of the late Roger and sadly missed by son Ian, daughter Kryss, sister June, many wider family members and friends.

Service to be held at Parndon Wood Chapel on Monday 11th February at 1.45pm. Donations are welcomed to St Thomas' vascular research fund.

Cheques payable to "Guy's & St Thomas' Charity (SPF 851)" may be sent to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow CM20 1QP, Tel: 01279 426990. Online donations via Eric's Memory Page at www.drobinson.co.uk.

**Treasured Memories KATHLEEN ROBERTS Nee Lund**

5.7.27 - 21.1.19

Passed away at home

A loving Mum, Gran, Nanny and Great Nan. Will always be loved and missed by her Daughters, 10 Grandchildren and 16 Great Grandchildren

Reunited with her Husband Fred and her Son Christopher

Sleep tightly

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Light a candle online in their memory for free

[funeral-notices.co.uk](http://www.drobinson.co.uk)

Deaths

**DENNIS LEONARD
NOTLEY**

Peacefully in the Princess Alexandra Hospital on 5th January 2019, Aged 95 Years. The Beloved Husband of Marge a dear Dad to Cindy, Father in Law to David and a wonderful and loving Grandad to Adam and Great Grandad to George. The Funeral Service is to be held on Thursday 7th February 2019 at Pardon Wood Crematorium at 11.30 a.m. Family Flowers Only Please, Donations if Desired for Dementia UK. Cheques made payable to Charities Account. All Enquiries and Donations to Masterson Funeral Home Ltd, Independent and Family Owned Funeral Directors, Station Road, Old Harlow, Essex. CM17 0AS, Tel: 01279 626238.

MASTERSON FUNERAL HOME LTD

**Eric
PAGE**

Formerly of Greylake Park, Harlow
Peacefully on 10th January 2019, aged 86 years.

Loving husband of the late Pat.

Memorial service at Rippingale Church on Friday 1st March at 3pm.

Donations if desired for Cancer Research UK may be sent to

T.R. Carlton Funeral Directors, 35b Abbey Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire.

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**DANIEL
ROBINSON
& SONS**

you can make a donation by visiting the

In Memory
pages atwww.drobinson.co.uk**Pat
REEVES**

In loving memory of Pat Reeves who died on 21st January 2019.

Funeral Service to be held at Pardon Wood, Harlow, CM194SF on 11th of February at 1pm.

Celebration of Life Please avoid Black. No flowers, donations to be made to British Heart foundation.

**Ronald
ROBINSON**

Late of Thorley, passed away peacefully on 13th January 2019, aged 87 years.

Funeral service to be held at St James Church, Thorley on Friday 1st February at 1.30pm. Donations for Parkinson's UK may be made online using the "In Memory" pages at www.drobinson.co.uk or cheques made payable to the charity can be sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons,

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In Memoriam**Rosa
JARVIS**

Passed away
1st February 2010.
In loving memory of
a special mum.
Now re-united together
forever with Alan.

All our love,
Kevin and Chris**Bridie
MATTHEWS**

1.2.2018

Kind was your nature
True were your ways
We will treasure your
memory for
the rest of our days.
Miss you so much
God bless from
all of us.

Share with
family & friends**David
ROOTSEY**

In loving memory of our beloved
David Rootsey
7th November 1952 - 1st February 2018
Missing you so much Dai
With all our love

Mum, Anne, Alan, Tommy,
Elliot, Leila, Zoe, Eileen, Cheryl,
Leonie, Stevie & Cherry**Acknowledgements****William
ROBERTSON
(Robbie)**

The family of Robbie who passed away on the 1st October 2018 would like to thank all those who sent cards and helped raise £1441.67 for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust. We would also like to express our thanks to everyone at Newport Surgery and the staff at Addenbrooke's hospital who were involved in his care.

Sally, Stuart and Clare

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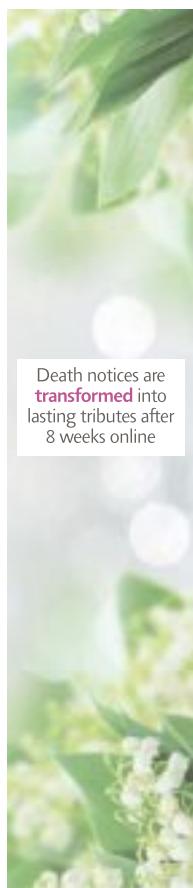
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YOUR EDUCATION NEWS

Youngsters show that they are the boss in county competition



ACADEMY PUPILS VICTORIOUS IN BOCCIA TOURNAMENT AT BASILDON SPORTS VILLAGE

PASSMORES Academy emerged victorious in the County Secondary Boccia Competition at Basildon Sporting Village.

Boccia is a precision ball sport, similar to bocce, and related to bowls and pétanque.

The name "boccia" is derived from the Latin word for "boss" – *bottia*.

The sport is contested at local, national and international levels but as yet is not known by a lot of people.

In 1984 it became a Paralympic sport and in 2008 it was being practised in over 50 countries worldwide, so its popularity is slowly increasing.

Passmores students Liam, Jacob, Lois, Sophie, Jordan and Daisy represented Passmores Academy at this prestigious event.

The team were fantastic and finished top in a competition with featured 20 schools.

Daisy, one of the team members, said: "It was a lot of fun.

"We had to throw the ball and try and get it as close to the white ball as possible.

"We nearly didn't win because the other team was very good.

"I was really happy to be chosen to be part of the team and even happier that we came first and I was given a medal."

Passmores students who took part in the boccia competition

Head's delight as students go through term without missing a single lesson

A CAMPAIGN to boost attendance has seen primary school children attend class 100 per cent of the time.

Roydon Primary Academy has been working with parents to raise awareness of the importance of being in school and the effect not being in school can have on a child's education.

Through regular updates, information booklets, attendance bulletins and rewards, the school

has raised awareness and made attendance a priority.

For the autumn term, more than a third of the school achieved 100 per cent attendance, with several days seeing every child in school and learning.

Head teacher Michael Clark said: "Being in school is vital for children's progress. If children are not in school, they are missing chunks of the curriculum.

"Missing one day a fortnight adds

up to more than three whole weeks of education a year.

"We have worked hard to show the importance of attendance and are very happy to see these great figures. We are very thankful to our parents for their continued support."

The success has been celebrated with children awarded with certificates, trophies and a display at the heart of the school to give pupils pride in their achievements.



Roydon Primary Academy students with their certificates for 100 per cent attendance

The odd couple



Viggo Mortensen as Frank 'Tony Lip' Vallelonga and Mahershala Ali as Don Shirley in *Green Book*

PATTI PERRET

GREEN BOOK (12A)

★★★★★

INSPIRED by a real-life friendship, *Green Book* is a life-affirming comedy drama which follows the tyre prints of *Driving Miss Daisy* to spark mutual appreciation between a chauffeur and his back-seat employer.

In the case of Peter Farrelly's charming picture, the lead characters – an Italian-American bouncer and a black pianist – stand on opposite sides of a racial divide at a time when American motels and restaurants could segregate or exclude clientele based on the colour of their skin.

The script co-written by Farrelly, Nick Vallelonga and Brian Currie fine-tunes conflict between the two men during an eight-week pre-Christmas concert tour, which screeches from the bright lights of New York City to the Mississippi Delta.

Viggo Mortensen gained 45lbs to convincingly portray his brutish family man, who happily devours a bucket of fried chicken behind the wheel of a rented Cadillac, tossing gnawed bones out of the driver's window.

Oscar-winning co-star Mahershala Ali walks a tightrope of repressed emotions as his mannered musician tentatively rewrites the soundtrack to a conflicted life.

Both actors are handsomely cast, exposing chinks in their characters' brittle armour as they confront insecurities far from home.

Frank "Tony Lip" Vallelonga (Mortensen) is a bouncer at the Copacabana nightclub on East 60th Street in 1962 New York City.

Charming in a rough-hewn manner when he needs to be, Tony isn't afraid to use his fists to silence fiery-tempered patrons.

Each night, Tony returns to a one-bedroom apartment, where he snuggles with adoring wife Dolores (Linda Cardellini) and their two children, Nick and Frankie.

During the winter, the club is closed for renovations ahead of the arrival of Sammy Davis Jr, so Frank accepts an offer from refined pianist Don Shirley (Ali) to chauffeur him on an eight-week tour that will take in Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Don will be accompanied at these concerts by cellist Oleg Malakhov (Dimiter Marinov) and double bassist George Dyer (Mike Hatton).

"You going through the Deep South ... there's gonna be problems," Tony tells his beautifully tailored employer.

Tony and Don initially clash but as the

tour gathers momentum, they learn valuable life lessons from each other.

"You don't win with violence, Tony," the pianist admonishes his hulking protector. "You win when you maintain your dignity."

Green Book makes exceedingly light work of a 130-minute running time, deftly juggling heart-tugging drama and culture-clash comedy.

Mortensen and Ali are a delightful double-act and Cardellini offers compelling support as the proud spouse, who makes her embarrassed husband promise to "write me a letter every chance you get".

He obliges and Farrelly's picture pens its own love letter to the endurance of the embattled human spirit that we savour with tears of contentment in our eyes.



ALSO OUT THIS WEEK



Hiccup (voiced by Jay Baruchel) rides Toothless into battle
UNIVERSAL PICTURES/DREAMWORKS ANIMATION

How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (PG)

★★★★★

THE third time's a bittersweet, crowd-pleasing charm for the computer-animated adventures based on the books penned by Cressida Cowell.

Directed at a brisk pace by Dean DeBlois, *How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World* soars in the slipstream of earlier films, which tenderly sketched the friendship between a Viking boy called Hiccup (voiced by Jay Baruchel) and a Night Fury dragon christened Toothless.

That unshakeable bond between man and beast is tested to (heart)breaking point in DeBlois' script, which recycles themes of selflessness and devotion to their natural conclusion without sacrificing the tenderness, raw emotion or uproarious humour which have become the series' trademarks.

Admittedly, there are scorch marks of *deja vu* on a plot that pits Hiccup and his Viking brethren against a sadistic villain, who has hunted Night Furies – the alphas of the dragon world – to the brink of extinction.

However, if this is the final time Hiccup and co take flight, it is a sweetly satisfying and soaring swansong.



Melissa McCarthy as Lee Israel and Richard E. Grant as Jack Hock
MARY CYBULSKI

Can You Ever Forgive Me? (15)

★★★★★

BASED on the book by Lee Israel, *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* is a comedy drama set in early 1990s New York City about one enterprising forger (Melissa McCarthy), who dug herself out of a deep financial hole by inventing correspondence from Noel Coward, Dorothy Parker and Tennessee Williams.

Director Marielle Heller's picture dramatises the criminal enterprise with warmth and wit, based on a script co-written by Nicole Holofcener and Jeff Whitty which provides Oscar-nominated leads with a feast of glittering one-liners.

McCarthy milks sympathy for her self-absorbed misanthrope, who boasts, "I can't get caught. Fools get caught", thereby ensuring her downfall when the FBI rumbles her scam.

Richard E Grant harks back to his glory days in *Withnail & I* to portray a foul-mouthed gay lush, who lives from day to day on charm and street smarts, and acts as a fence for the letters.

In scenes of verbal sparring, the actors light up the screen.

GETAWAY

As a great winter sun destination, Egypt is vying with the Canaries for top slot. **HANNAH STEPHENSON** visits Hurghada to find out what it has to offer

COUNT eight excursion boats huddled together in the crystal clear waters off Giftn Island, passengers offloading from small-engined transfer boats onto the picture postcard white sandy beach like an army of ants marching into new territory.

The island, divided into three sections – Paradise, Giftn and Mahmya – is a well-trodden stop-off for craft on the Red Sea tourist trail of Hurghada, Egypt, and initially I'm sceptical of its claims of great snorkelling on the coral reef within swimming distance, simply because of the weight of visible human traffic.

Yet, just a short walk from the drop-off point, I am away from the crowds and immersed in an unexpected underwater delight of marine life, looking down on a profusion of colourful fish you'd be pleased to see on a less commercial dive.

Chunky pink and blue parrotfish, so close you can hear their teeth gnawing the rock below as they forage, share space with black and white striped damselfish, acid-yellow butterfly fish and cleverly camouflaged lizardfish lurking on the hard marine landscape.

Donning goggles and snorkels, my whole family – even my daughter, Grace, 18, who hates putting her face underwater – delight in the spectacle below.

Whilst much of the coral close to the shore has been damaged by tourists and bleaching (although scientists have found that the coral in the Red Sea is among the most temperature-resistant in the world), there is still enough to attract schools of colourful fish.

The plethora of excursion boats is just one sign that British tourists are returning to Egypt after a seven-year hiatus which began with the 2011 revolution and subsequent political unrest. While flights to Sharm el Sheikh are still banned from the UK, the Egyptian Tourist Authority is focusing on attracting holidaymakers to Hurghada, across the bay.

For winter sun, it's on a par price-wise with Tenerife and is a cheaper alternative to long-haul destinations such as the Caribbean or Dubai. The introduction of e-visas to Egypt have also quickened what used to be quite a laborious process at the airport.

Dive back into Egypt



Hannah (second left) with her family at a marina near Hurghada

OK coral: Egypt's reefs are impressively resilient

Its winter weather is sub-tropical and it has much less rain than the Canaries – only 2.36 inches of it a year – and offers amazing diving, fishing and marine pursuits, as well as different desert activities.

Hurghada started life as a fishing village but since 1980 has expanded massively into a major tourist centre, complete with an endless stretch of all-inclusive beach resorts and ornate hotels, offering an array of pampering within their ochre and terracotta-painted walls and mock minaret and mosque architecture.

We're staying in Thomas Cook's own-brand SENTIDO Mamlouk Palace Resort on that Red Sea Riviera stretch, a marble-encrusted, air-conditioned all-inclusive beachfront hotspot.

From its colossal pools and private beach, to its eclectic mix of à la carte restaurants, an entertainment programme including beach volleyball, football and use of an aqua park at its adjoining sister hotel, it's complete with everything you need for a family fly-and-flop break.

Here, you can dine on Arabic and Egyptian specialities of baba ganoush, falafel, mashed fava beans, lamb kofta and kebabs, mouthwatering tagines filled with okra and tomatoes and other authentic delights, although there's also plenty for the more finicky, perhaps younger, diner too.

During the day, beach devotees take leisurely rides on exotic-looking camels, whose saddles and bridles are adorned with multi-coloured tassels. In the evening tourists are invited into

dimly-lit awnings to sit bare-foot and smoke shisha, offered in a variety of flavours.

Realistically, it's too far to go to Luxor or Cairo from Hurghada for the day – it's a four-hour drive to Luxor and seven hours to Cairo – but the resort is ideal for people who want to experience a little Egyptian ambience, without venturing too far from the lap of luxury.

The other main draw is its people. The Egyptians have had years of turmoil and they genuinely want holidaymakers to enjoy their stay and see the best of their country. It's a sentiment echoed by many of the guests I speak to at the hotel.

But to get some notion of real life here, we venture into downtown Hurghada, an area known as El Daha, where we find a hubbub of activity, with vendors selling local crafts, including papyrus, shisha pipes and gold.

The busiest area is Sakkala, which is awash with shops and bazaars selling a mish-mash of goods, from fake Chanel handbags to Arabic sweets and mobile phones. It's here you can haggle, bagging a bargain for half of the original asking price if you're canny.

In less frenetic outlets, shopkeepers will invite you to smell the fragrance of their calming, health-giving dried teas, the most famous of which is hibiscus, or gently encourage you to buy a small bag of aromatic spice.

We take a stroll along the promenade of the modern marina lined with restaurants and bars, their walls painted in soft palettes of terracotta and mustard, pastel yellow, green and blue cushions

covering luxurious outdoor sofas. Yet even in this upmarket location, you can get a beer for around £1.50, while a seafood platter will only set you back about £12.

Like many visitors, I'm also here for the diving. Tourists come to this Red Sea resort for the scuba experience, although real aficionados will go a bit further down the coast to Marsa Alam, to swim with the pods of spinner dolphins and admire the hammerhead sharks, lumbering dugongs and giant sea turtles which occupy these waters.

My 19-year-old son, Will, and I – the only members of my family who dive – visit Makadi Bay, just outside Hurghada, where age is no barrier to the sheer joy we both feel at the sight of parrotfish, snapper and other brightly coloured marine life amid the impressive coral network.

The state of the coral, in shades of blue, purple, raspberry pink and burnt orange, is impressive despite some damage. While so much of the world's coral has been bleached, research suggests that coral in the

NEED TO KNOW

■ THOMAS COOK (thomascook.com; 0844 412 5970) offers seven nights at the four-star SENTIDO Mamlouk Palace Resort from £519pp, staying in a twin room on an all-inclusive basis. Prices are based on two adults sharing, departing from London Gatwick this week, with 15kg luggage, resort transfers, 24-hour Connected Service and ATOL protection.

■ Flights are available from a number of regional airports. Economy Plus upgrade on Thomas Cook Airlines costs from £59.99pp each way.

Red Sea is very resilient to high temperature changes and is likely to be the last to survive in a world faced by global warming.

My advice? Go there before it too succumbs – and grab yourself some winter sun at the same time.



Rugs for sale at a souk

Hurghada has a population of around 80,000 and the average temperature in August is 30°C

GETAWAY

SETTING THE SCENE



SARAH MARSHALL REVEALS FIVE BLOCKBUSTER LOCATIONS LIKELY TO FIND FAME WITH TOURISTS THIS YEAR

A TRIP to the cinema is pure escapism, with special effects and epic locations transporting us to many other worlds. Some scenes are so impactful, they even inspire viewers to visit locations, giving rise to a tourism trend coined 'set-jetting'.

So which films and TV are likely to shape our travel plans in 2019? According to flight booking engine Kiwi.com, these visual narratives are likely to put particular destinations on the map.

1. GAME OF THRONES

Where: Northern Ireland

THE show, based on author George R. R. Martin's A Song Of Ice And Fire series, returns to screens for its eighth and final season on April 14. Venture along the path of the three-eyed raven by visiting one of the many age-old landscapes of the Seven Kingdoms in Northern Ireland. Eager fans can retrace previous filming locations by stopping off at The Dark Hedges, an avenue of beech trees along Bregagh Road between Armoy and Stranocum in County Antrim; Ballintoy Harbour, where the Iron Islands shots are filmed; and Cushendun Caves, where Melisandre had her shadow baby.

2. RATCHED

Where: Oregon, USA

BASED on the sadistic history of Nurse Ratched from the cult classic One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey, this new Netflix show will follow her murderous progression through the US

mental health system. Sinister thrill-seekers can visit Oregon, the home of her perverse past, and can escape to locations such as Crater Lake, Mount Hood, Multnomah Falls, Timberline Lodge, and Haystack Rock.

3. THE HANDMAID'S TALE

Where: Massachusetts, USA

THE dystopian landscape of Gilead returns to our screens in 2019, and is set to inspire viewers to take a trip to the US state of Massachusetts, where the story is set. In reality, much of the filming was done in Toronto, but some scenes were shot in Boston. Fenway Park, the Charles River and Back Bay all feature.

4. THE NEW POPE

Where: Rome, Italy

FOLLOWING on from first series, The Young Pope, this follow up sees Jude Law return to Italy's Vatican City, where filming took place. You too can tour the Vatican, and explore other Roman locations featured, such as the church Santi Luca e Martina, 17th century Villa Doria Pamphili, and Villa Medici - The French Academy in Rome.

5. ALADDIN

Where: Jordan

FOLLOWING on from the success of The Jungle Book, Disney has commissioned a live-action remake of Aladdin. The story is set in the fictional land of Agrabah, and although much of the filming took place in Surrey, some scenes were shot in Jordan's Wadi Rum Desert.



Charles River in Boston



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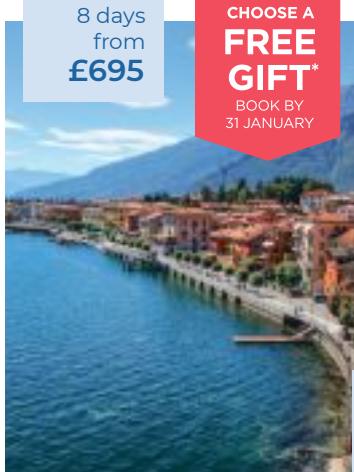


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MUSIC

Brian's life of touring is coming to an end

By MARTIN NEAL

martin.neal@reachplc.com
@harveywahwah

SIXTIES star Brian Poole will never forget the time his band, The Tremeloes, knocked The Beatles off the No 1 spot in the charts.

The Fab Four were out of town at the time, but Barking-born Brian and his bandmates were in John, Paul, George and Ringo's back yard in Liverpool!

It was October 1963, teenagers from Barking to Birkenhead and beyond were discovering this new type of music played by blokes with guitars and unruly haircuts and Brian Poole and The Tremeloes' Do You Love Me replaced The Beatles She Loves You at the top of what we used to call the hit parade.

"That was one of the luckiest three days of my life and the Tremeloes' lives," recalled Brian, now nearly 78 and amazingly still rocking.

"We used to play in Liverpool along with Gerry and the Pacemakers, a band called the Big Three, the Swinging Blue Jeans and bands like that. We were invited up there to play one time for three days and we knew our record was creeping up the charts but we didn't know The Beatles were No 1.

"The Beatles weren't in Liverpool at the time - I think they were in Germany - but we were. In those days you got a notification if you'd got a telegram and someone said to us that we'd got one and we had to go to the Post Office to pick it up.

"So I went to get it and it read 'well done lads, you've just sold over a million and something records'. We never thought we would sell six! Really. That's true, we didn't think we were a big record-selling band.

"So suddenly we got this telegram and we just jumped with joy. The Post Office was near, or maybe in, Lime Street station.

"We walked into the station and there were these great big headlines in the Liverpool paper, the Echo I think, saying 'Beatles knocked off top by London band' with a story all about it. We bought about ten papers each! It was a great time.

"The people of Liverpool, as usual with us, were really fantastic."

There was something of a perceived London v Liverpool rivalry in pop music at the time, with bands from the capital and surrounding areas such as The Tremeloes and the Rolling Stones vying with Merseyside acts including The Beatles, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Cilla Black and Frankie Vaughan to be top dogs.

"It was in really good heart though," said Brian. "The press were as they always were in those days, but it was a bit of banter. All of



us gave plenty of banter but it was nothing nasty because we all had a great respect for each other.

"All of us toured together before we had a hit record. We knew The Beatles before we had hits, we were often around together, although we didn't see too much of them afterwards.

"I've got some lovely pictures. We were on at the Albert Hall together one time and all of The Beatles walked out together just by the café while The Tremeloes were just going across the road for a pint. The photo is of me walking up to them saying 'are you coming for a pint?'"

A version of The Isley Brothers' Twist and Shout (most famously covered by The Beatles), Candy Man and Someone, Someone also took Brian and the band into the charts, but he left in the late 1960s to forge a solo career. The Tremeloes - despite initially calling it a day - have continued in some form or another and Brian himself has remained active too.

He comes to Southend's Cliffs Pavilion later this year as part of the Solid Silver 60s Show, also featuring Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits, Dave Berry and Vanity Fare.

But, says Brian, this is his farewell tour. He's retiring from life on the road at the end

of tour that takes in over 30 dates - no mean feat when you think that the headline names on this celebrated trip down Memory Lane have already blown out 70 candles on a birthday cake.

It's rather fitting that he should bow out in the company of his old pals Noone, whose band's hits included I'm Into Something Good and My Sentimental Friend, and Berry, who is best known for The Crying Game and Memphis, Tennessee.

"Peter Noone and Herman's Hermits were on one of our very first tours with The Tremeloes," he recalled. "That was his first tour, and Dave Berry was on all the tours with us."

"The one thing there's going to be, and that's for certain, is a lot of messing about. I know we're old guys now but every time I've toured, there's been really good stuff going on and it's been a good laugh."

"But this is my last tour ever. I'm 77 now and I've loved doing the odd festival here and there, where you get to see everybody, but I'm looking forward to not touring any more."

"I'm on the road for two or three months at a time. At this age I think, have I got to do it like this? Well, not really. I've enjoyed touring but I don't want to go out on a sickie."

■ The Solid Silver 60s Show gets underway at the Cliffs Pavilion on March 15. For tickets visit www.flyingmusic.com/solid-silver-60s-show

LIVE MUSIC



The Kubricks return to Chelmsford this Friday night

The Kubricks, Bassment, Chelmsford, Friday, February 1

As part of Independent Venue Week, Chelmsford promoter Shakey is bringing a top line-up of acts to The Bassment this Friday. Heading the bill are old favourites The Kubricks, the ska and reggae band that always get the party going in Chelmsford. Support comes from punked up locals Bilk who have been getting plenty of attention beyond the county. Completing the bill is Ariel who specialises in beautiful, introspective pop that's got the approval of The Guardian and i-D. It's Shakey's final Friday night at the Bassment so a great chance to give him a good send-off. Doors open at 8pm.

DOWN THE PUB



HERTFORDSHIRE four-piece DodoBones are playing the United Brethren this weekend. Renowned for their combination of natural acoustic instruments and powerhouse performances, they have also attracted attention with their ironic pop. Expect their own take on covers plus a few original songs at the New Writtle Street venue on Saturday.

GIGS for February 1-3

- Star & Garter, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford: Friday - Dead Mans Hand; Saturday - Illicit
- Cricketers, Southend: Friday - Beggar; Saturday - Saviours
- Cock Inn, Bishops Stortford: Saturday - Goat Patrol
- Waggon at Wix: Saturday - All Revved Up
- Canvey Corner Club: Saturday - Headfirst
- Rose & Crown, Bishops Stortford: Saturday - Tribe
- Golden Fleece, Chelmsford: Friday - The Nook; Saturday - Reptilia
- Railway Hotel, Clifftown Road, Southend: Friday - D52s
- Boars Head, Braintree: Friday - Hit Parade; Saturday - Yellowhouse
- Cow & Telescope, Southend: Friday - Expose; Saturday - Scooby
- The Swan, Wickford: Saturday - Naked Apes
- Half Moon, Rayleigh: Saturday - Grounds For Divorce
- Welcome Club, Stanford-le-Hope: Friday - No More Heroes; Saturday - Electrum
- United Brethren, New Writtle Street, Chelmsford: Friday - Rough & Ready; Saturday - DodoBones; Sunday - Frank Statesboro

Entertainment

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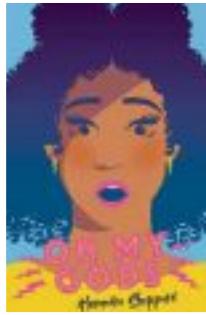
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newspapers
in 2016 was
62.8%**

FAMILY MATTERS

CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE WEEK



OH MY GODS by Alexandra Sheppard, Scholastic, £7.99 (ebook £4.68)

★★★★★

HELEN THOMAS is no ordinary 14-year-old: Her father is Zeus, head of the Greek gods, and she has just moved in with him and her mythological siblings who are living incognito in London. Making new friends at new school is hard enough without having to deal with her stroppy, gorgeous half-sister Aphrodite and her half-brother (and DJ) Apollo as well.

But trying to keep her family's identity secret is the biggest challenge, especially when the stakes are Mount Olympus-high...

Readers hoping for a world of magical adventure a la Percy Jackson will be disappointed. Helen never sets foot outside London.

Instead, Sheppard touches lightly on multiculturalism, discrimination and teen angst and the possible appearance of Helen's superhuman powers plays second fiddle to agonising over how to impress a boy.

Fans of Louise Rennison, Stephenie Meyer or Jacqueline Wilson are certain to enjoy it.

KIDS' BUY OF THE WEEK



WANT to liven up a child's bedroom while adding a personal touch?

These transport-inspired prints might be just the thing. Available in two frame colours (black or white) and four print sizes (large mounted frame, A3, A4 or A5) these personalised framed prints feature a name of your choice alongside illustrations of a digger, helicopter, cars, traffic lights and more.

The Rescue print, left, and Vehicles version, right, both start from £16.99 for the A5 size (29x23cm). They are available from gettingpersonal.co.uk

10 pregnancy and maternity work rights all women should be aware of

LISA SALMON talks to an expert to outline the most important things that expectant working women and new mums need to know

WHEN working women find out they're pregnant, their thoughts will normally centre on their growing baby, rather than their rights at work. But as the pregnancy progresses, or soon after the baby's born, those rights may become a crucial issue.

Joeli Brearley, founder of support group Pregnant Then Screwed (pregnantthenscrewed.com) says she wants to help pregnant women and new mothers who have problems at work.

Mum of two Joeli, 39, points out that 54,000 women a year in the UK are pushed out of their job for "daring to procreate", and 77% of mums encounter discrimination in the workplace. "When women know their legal rights, and have the confidence to stand up to employers who are treating them unfairly, it's much more likely the discrimination will stop," she says.

Here are her top 10 maternity rights.

1 AUTOMATIC YEAR OFF

YOUR employer should assume you'll be taking 52 weeks' leave if you don't tell them otherwise. But if you planned to take a full year off but decide to go back earlier, just give eight weeks' notice of when you want to return.

2 TIME OFF FOR ANTE Natal APPOINTMENTS

IF you need to go to an antenatal appointment during work time, you have the legal right to do so – you don't need to take leave or try to squeeze the appointments in on your days off. It should include the time needed to travel to the clinic or GP, without loss of pay. And Joeli stresses: "Don't forget, you don't always have to attend appointments alone – fathers and partners are also entitled to time off for up to two antenatal appointments."

3 MATERNITY LEAVE REDUNDANCY

IF you're made redundant during maternity leave, you have the right to be offered a suitable alternative vacancy (if one exists) before it's offered to another employee.

"You don't have to go in to your workplace for an interview or assessment procedures for any suitable vacancy if you're on maternity leave."

Joeli advises women to speak to HR and be clear on their rights, and adds: "If they continue to mess you about, you may have a case."

4 YOU'RE STILL AN EMPLOYEE

YOUR company must treat you as an employee when you're on maternity leave, so they mustn't



Joeli Brearley

discriminate against you by failing to consider you for promotions or a pay rise. Plus, you will accrue your holiday entitlement while on maternity leave, and you can use it as you wish. Some tag it on to the end of their maternity leave, and others use the days to help stagger their return to work.

5 KEEPING IN TOUCH DAYS

YOU can do up to 10 keeping in touch days, which help parents stay in the loop at work. You're not legally obliged to attend and your employer isn't legally obliged to offer them, but you can request to be paid for them if you decide that they're the way to go.

6 TELLING YOUR BOSS

YOU can tell your boss your news when you feel it's right for you – although waiting for your first scan is advisable, says Joeli. Don't

put it off too long though – you should tell your employer you're pregnant by the 15th week before your due date.

7 RISK ASSESSMENT

ALL employers should carry out a workplace risk assessment. "As a pregnant employee or a returning mum, you aren't an inconvenience and your workplace needs to be a safe place for you and your baby," Joeli stresses. If you're pregnant, have given birth in the last six months or are breastfeeding, your employer should make sure your working conditions won't put your health or your baby's health at risk.

Employers should do all that's reasonable to remove or reduce any risks. If you're returning to work and are breastfeeding, you should write to your employer to let them know before your first day back. Joeli says: "Make sure you're

Out of the mouths of babes comes a whole

FONDLY, I remember Victoria's anger when Emma's first word was 'dada'. This was because she'd spent the prior few weeks teaching her 'mama'.

Although, I was reliably informed by 'mama', babies say 'dada' first because it's much simpler and far less complex than the female version.

Thomas surprised us both by saying 'hiya' to anyone and everything.

Thankfully, 'hiya' has been transformed into the more traditional yet drawn out 'helooo' followed by a confident wave of regal quality.

My only criticism would be this mainstay of communication is used for any occasion and at times is simply inappropriate, especially when we're saying 'goodbye'.

Emma's repertoire has broadened to include 'cat', 'done', 'no', 'mama' and a passable impression of a dog, in which she lifts her hands up to signal paws and pants.

She also does an excellent Kenneth Williams style 'Ooooooh, matron' although we've no idea who taught her that.

Intriguingly, 'dada' is now used to identify Peppa Pig, a rotund, rosy coloured cartoon

character with a big head and stomach, who eats a lot of cake.

Possibly, the greatest advantage of the twins' ability to talk is that it's given Victoria and I another form of communication.

For example, Victoria might say to me 'have you changed Thomas' nappy?' and I'll confidently reply 'yes'.

Moments later, I'll hear her saying in a hushed yet still audible voice 'did Daddy change your nappy?'.

Obviously, the effect of this is twofold. Firstly, it implies my word is not always to be trusted and secondly, it keeps me toeing





listened to, and provided with a suitable place to breastfeed or express. Note to employers – that is not the toilet."

8 DISCRIMINATION FROM THE START YOU can claim discrimination and automatic unfair dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy and maternity leave from day one of your employment.

If you've been sacked, made redundant, are being harassed, or are overlooked for promotion or other opportunities because of your pregnancy or maternity leave, you may have a legal case. Joeli says: "Don't feel like you're on your own and don't think this is your fault. It's not. Thousands of women have been in your shoes."

9 RETURNING TO YOUR JOB If you go back to work within 26 weeks, you have the right to return to exactly the same job, contractual terms and salary as before. If you return after 26 weeks but before 52 weeks, you have

the same entitlement unless your employer can prove it wasn't practicable to give you your job back. Your employer must offer you an alternative on the same salary and terms. If you're given a different job on return from maternity leave, or are offered different shift patterns, you should seek legal advice if you're unhappy.

10 FUNDING MATERNITY LEAVE STATUTORY Maternity Pay (SMP) is paid for 39 weeks of maternity leave, and to be eligible you must have worked for your employer continuously for at least 26 weeks, into the 'qualifying week' – the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth. You can get SMP even if you don't plan to go back to work, or if you're dismissed or made redundant after the 26th week of pregnancy. If you're not entitled to SMP, you may get Maternity Allowance, for example, if you're self-employed or if you started a new job while pregnant.

new level of trouble - for me

the line, if I'm aware that Thomas is an informer.

Naturally, I've developed my own technique in which Thomas or Emma become third party intermediaries in a conversation.

For example, if I'm halfway through an overly long anecdote and Victoria starts giving me a list of things we need, I can say 'mummy doesn't listen to daddy', in a barely audible voice to the twins.

This situation can escalate if Victoria replies with 'that's because Daddy talks



Ooooh, mama! What a carry on

too much' in similarly hushed tones. For the moment, this all relies on very little input from the pair of them but part of me is looking forward to when they can disagree or agree with Victoria's and my observations on one another.

On the other hand, I'm worried the trouble will really start when they can finally answer mummy's probing questions revealing any untruths.

Worse still, when mummy finds out they watched Carry on Camping with daddy on a lazy Christmas afternoon, during which he taught Emma how to impersonate Kenneth Williams.



HIGH ON THE HOG
Ridley's House Of Novelties Pigs Will Fly Giant Kite, £17.99, cotswold trading.com

KIDS' PUZZLES!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the six differences between the pictures below?



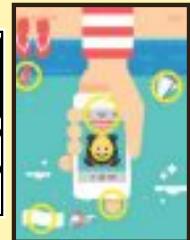
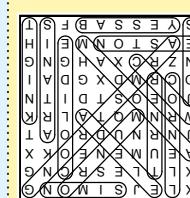
WORDSEARCH

Can you find all these James Bond theme tune singers in the grid?

X	L	E	J	S	I	M	O	N	G
X	L	T	L	E	S	R	C	N	G
A	E	U	M	E	N	E	O	K	X
J	N	R	N	U	D	R	O	A	T
W	R	N	M	Q	T	A	L	R	K
J	O	E	O	S	T	D	I	T	N
O	C	R	M	D	X	G	D	A	I
N	Z	R	C	X	A	H	G	N	G
E	A	S	T	O	N	M	E	I	H
S	Y	E	S	S	A	B	F	S	T

ADELE	JONES
ARMSTRONG	KNIGHT
BASSEY	MADONNA
COOLIDGE	MUNRO
CORNELL	SIMON
CROW	SINATRA
EASTON	TURNER

Solutions



January 31, 2019

PROPERTY & LIVING

ESSEX.LIVE.NEWS/PROPERTY

We look at some of the best bungalows
on the market in Essex SEE PAGES 38&39



GETTING THE LOWDOWN

HOT HOUSE



BUNGALOWS ARE MUCH SOUGHT AFTER IN ESSEX. **ROSS NORMAN-CLARKE** FINDS SOME LOVELY EXAMPLES ON THE MARKET

KEEP A LOW PROFILE

This Kelvedon Hatch bungalow is offered with no onward chain



Following their heyday in the middle decades of the last century, the popularity of bungalows steadily declined, while many existing examples fell victim to opportunistic redevelopment. Now, however, thanks largely to an ageing population, demand for bungalows is once again strong.

Beresfords are seeking offers in excess of £637,000 for an immaculately-presented detached three/four-bedroom bungalow located in a delightful semi-rural position in Pilgrims Hatch. Extended and refurbished by the current vendors it offers stylish contemporary accommodation including: an entrance hall with wood flooring, a vaulted master bedroom with fitted cupboards, fitted window shutters and a window seat, two further double bedrooms, a living room, a second reception room/bedroom four, a luxury four piece family bathroom with roll top bath, separate shower cubicle and his & hers hand basins, a cloakroom and a utility. However, the standout feature is a stunning 30ft open-plan kitchen/

breakfast/family room with a vaulted ceiling and bi fold doors to the garden. The kitchen area has marble work surfaces, an island unit and integrated appliances. To the front of the property is a driveway providing off street parking, while the rear garden measures approximately 200ft in length and features a patio and large lawned areas.

For sale through Hetheringtons John D Wood and priced at £495,000 is an attractive extended semi-detached bungalow in Hanging Hill Lane, Hutton. The property has bright and spacious accommodation comprising: an entrance hallway, a 17ft reception room with a feature fireplace housing a wood burner, an adjoining dining area, two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, and a family bathroom. Outside, the landscaped rear garden has a raised decked terrace stepping down to a gravelled path which in turn wraps around a lawn area bordered by sleepers with an array of shrubs and evergreens. Bordering the front garden is a driveway providing off-road parking and leading to an attached garage.

On the market with Fenn Wright is a



superb detached bungalow in Boreham, only constructed in 2010 and offering beautifully finished interiors plus a state-of-the-art specification. Occupying a plot of some $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre, it offers four bedrooms including a spacious master suite with dressing area and luxury en suite shower room, a comfortable sitting room, a bespoke kitchen/diner with a separate utility room, a family bathroom and a cloakroom. The high specification finish includes 'Villeroy & Boch' bathroom suites, solid Amer-

ican walnut internal doors and light coloured gloss units to the kitchen along with a range of integrated 'Neff' appliances. There is underfloor heating in the principal rooms along with an integrated audio system in the sitting room. The property occupies a pleasant west fronting position with a sweeping block paved driveway providing off road parking and access to an integral garage. There is side gated access leading to the rear garden which extends for some 170ft and includes a paved terrace seating area.

The guide price: £700,000. Hilbery Chaplin are selling an attractive well-proportioned detached bungalow in Pilgrims Hatch which has recently undergone a comprehensive modernisation programme, including re-wiring, a re-fitted kitchen and bathroom, and new central heating and alarm systems. It comprises an entrance hall, a dual aspect lounge/diner with a glazed side door, two double bedrooms overlooking the fully-enclosed rear garden, a stylish high-gloss fitted

Fox Wood in Boreham was built in 2010 and offers a state-of-the art specification



kitchen and a strikingly contemporary bathroom/WC. Outside, both the front and rear gardens are predominantly laid to lawn, with a driveway to the side offering off-road parking and access to a garage. On sale with the added benefit of no onward chain, the price is £485,000.

Finally this week, for sale through Keith Ashton with no onward chain and a guide price of £540,000 is a modern detached bungalow in Kelvedon Hatch. The light, well-planned accommodation includes three bed-

rooms, a dual-aspect lounge which is semi open-plan to an equally generous dining room, a conservatory, a stylish contemporary fitted kitchen, a modern luxury bathroom and a separate WC. The property is approached via a paved carriage drive serving an attached double-length garage and providing off-road parking for up to seven cars. The large rear garden commences with a broad block-paved terrace, with the remainder mainly laid to lawn with established shrub borders.

YOUR HOME

How a touch of surrealism can transform homes

Bicycles in the bathroom, fish in the sink and a collection of bowler hats hanging from your ceiling. Absolutely anything's possible, says **LUKE RIX-STANDING**

Tired of tables with four legs, porcelain sinks, and rooms that stay the same colour when you turn the lights off? No, we didn't think you would be – but hear us out.

These surrealist home improvements will make you question all you thought you knew about your living room and, perhaps, your reality.

The Collins Dictionary describes surrealism as: "A style in which ideas, images and objects are combined in a strange way, like in a dream." We're not going to stick to this too rigidly here (full disclosure: We just want to show you stuff that's cool and weird), but it's worth keeping in mind nonetheless. It worked pretty well for Spanish artist Salvador Dali; it may do the same for your kitchen.

You probably won't want to seriously

consider full-blown surrealistic style for your next decor update, but these out-there looks and quirky designs might inspire a few new touches...

AN ARTISTIC TRADITION

Surrealism is steeped in avant-garde aesthetics, so the designs themselves fit well into a modern interior. A quick Google search yields Rene Magritte-themed cushions, Salvador Dali curtains, and mugs adorned with the works of Max Ernst.

More overtly domestic are the sculptures, and replicas of Salvador Dali's iconic 'lips sofa' (it's exactly what it sounds like) are as comfy as they are mind-bending.

Surrealism has its own category in print shops and poster websites, so any bare stretch of wall can be easily filled with melting clocks, abstract collages and contortionist portraiture.



Giant Champagne cork stools £150

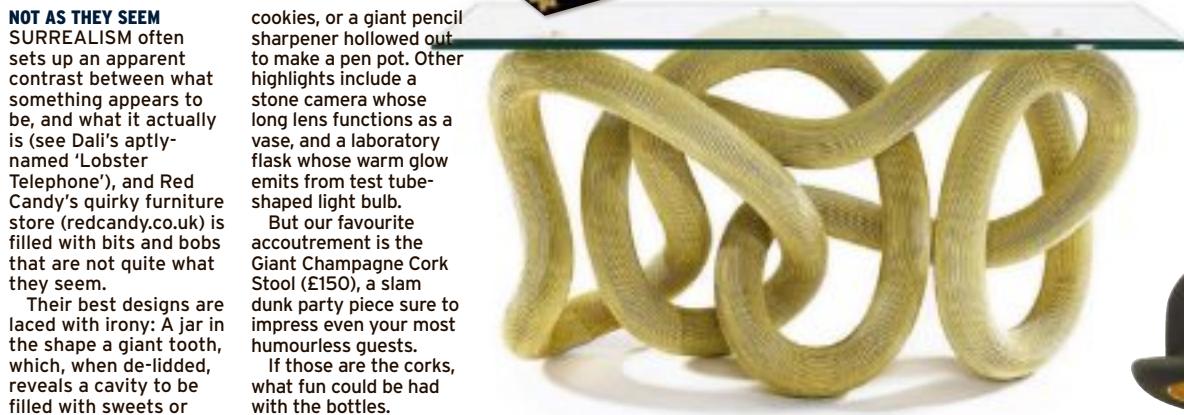
NOT AS THEY SEEM
SURREALISM often sets up an apparent contrast between what something appears to be, and what it actually is (see Dali's aptly-named 'Lobster Telephone'), and Red Candy's quirky furniture store (redcandy.co.uk) is filled with bits and bobs that are not quite what they seem.

Their best designs are laced with irony: A lamp in the shape of a giant tooth, which, when de-lidded, reveals a cavity to be filled with sweets or

cookies, or a giant pencil sharpener hollowed out to make a pen pot. Other highlights include a stone camera whose long lens functions as a vase, and a laboratory flask whose warm glow emits from test tube-shaped light bulb.

But our favourite accoutrement is the Giant Champagne Cork Stool (£150), a slam dunk party piece sure to impress even your most humourless guests.

If those are the corks, what fun could be had with the bottles.



Surrealism in the home – a step too far?

FURNITURE OF THE ABSURD

Surrealism can be a purely aesthetic experience, and the best designs play tricks on the eyes as well as the mind. Think optical illusions or portraits that look different from different angles: Anything offbeat enough to elicit a double take from an unsuspecting guest.

The designs of Jake Phipps (jakephipps.com) are yet more inscrutable. An attractive glass-topped table rests not on four legs but a single undulating loop that twists and turns in on itself, like a snake that's bitten its own tail.

The Lost at Sea Side Table comes encrusted with golden barnacles, as though newly salvaged from the ocean floor. For lighting, bowler hats hang from the ceiling masquerading as lampshades, a warm glow pouring from beneath their brims.

But most mind-bending of all is his aptly named Salvador Mirror. The frame literally peels back from the mirror's surface to reveal its contents – in this case, you.

Jake Phipps' Salvador Mirror, above, the Lost at Sea Side Table, left, the glass-top table, below left, and his Bowler Hat lights, below





A WARPED REALITY

So much for surrealist decor – for those willing to make more structural alterations, a brave new world of eccentric design awaits.

Fake windows are now all the rage, thanks in part to the proliferation of basement flats beneath bustling cities, but also because their LED displays can use realistic natural light to reflect the time of day and show ultra-HD 'views' from soaring peaks to plunging valleys.

Hungarian artist Bogi Fabian (bogifabian.com) travels the world painting unique murals on clients' walls, with a special kind of fluorescent paint that can only be viewed in the dark. Wait 'til sundown, snuff out the lamps and enter a dream world.

For daytime designs, Zurleys (zurleys.co.uk) offers matching sets of reflective furniture to create your very own bedroom of mirrors. And for furnishings that seem to have dropped straight from the walls of Tate Modern, direct your attention to Dust Furniture (dustfurniture.com).

All their units come with cartoonish colour schemes and stylised swirls and spikes – which in some cases, bring to mind the cubist contortionism of Pablo Picasso. Cupboards, wardrobes and shelves are precariously stacked atop one another, like a circus balancing act.



Left: Reversible side table, \$345, approx £264, dustfurniture.com

Above:
The
reflective
furniture
from
Zurleys

Right:
Seletti
camera vase,
currently
reduced
from £30
to £27, Red
Candy



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SHOP HOME



Above:
Metal frame table lamp, £65, Oliver Bonas



Right:
Balmoral bed in emerald, £1,249, Heal's



Above:
Polka teapot in burnt orange, £36, LSA International

Below:
Sir Ladybug canvas print by Wonderbold, £199, limelace.co.uk



Above L-R:
Velvet palm tree cushion cover, £46, Amara and Fox and Ivy elegant velvet cushion, £20, Tesco



Right:
Penfold ottoman in rouge, £229, Swoon

Jewel in the style

A pop of gemstone colour could be just what you need to pull your decor scheme together, says **DAN BEAVAN**



Left: Kosmo large bowl in yellow and grey and blue and red, £5 each, Tesco.
All prices correct at time of going to press



Crackle bevel vintage green tiles, £56psqm, tilegiant.co.uk



MATT BLACK KITCHEN BUYS



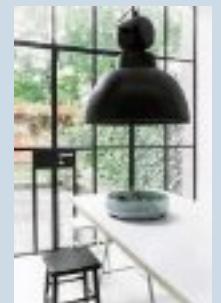
PEDAL POWER
Dale stainless steel bin 3L, matt black, £14 made.com



NIGHT ON THE TILES
Textured black mix mosaic tiles, self-adhesive, £9.95 wallsandfloors.co.uk



BLACK COFFEE
I Like My Coffee Black mug by MTW U Studio, £11 ustudio.design



LIGHT AND DARK
Factory hanging factory lamp in matt black, £295 outtherinteriors.com



Guide Price £280,000 - £290,000
Close To Amenities EPC C

The Fortunes

This extended three bedroom end of terrace family home offers good sized accommodation and is located in the Bush Fair area of Harlow, close to William Martin school. Ref 14776

Call Now To View



Guide Price £280,000 - £300,000
Family Home EPC D

Felmongers

This three bedroom mid terrace home offers great living accommodation benefiting from a spacious lounge and good sized rear garden. Viewing advised. Ref 14752

A Must View



Guide Price £140,000 - £170,000
Life On One Level EPC C

Radburn Close

Are you after a property all on one level? Then you'll be right at home with this one bedroom ground floor flat in the popular Radburn Close area of Harlow. Ref 14853

Call 01279 443311



Guide Price £260,000 - £280,000
Town Centre Location EPC D

Northbrooks

Located within walking distance to the Harlow Town Centre is this three bedroom end of terrace being sold chain free. Call now to view. Ref 14408

Call For More Information



Modern Living
Rundells
£270,000
EPC TBC

haart are pleased to offer this very well presented two bedroom end of terrace home offering open plan living. The owners have added a small extension to the rear of the property to create a dining area. Internal viewing is highly advised. Ref 14905

Book Your Viewing Today



Ideal Family Home
Peterswood
Offers In Excess Of £280,000
EPC C

Located within easy reach to amenities and schools is this three bedroom middle terrace family home benefiting from off road parking, ground floor cloakroom and a garage. Internal viewing is highly advised. Ref 14779

Viewing Advised



Room For All The Family £300,000
Sycamore Field EPC C

Spacious Family Home Backing on to fields and being sold chain free is this well presented three bedroom terraced home with two shower rooms. The property also benefits from an open plan kitchen diner and conservatory. Viewing highly advised. Ref 14914

Dont Miss Out



Guide Price £150,000 - £160,000
Woodcroft
Get On The Property Ladder
EPC D

Offered for sale chain free is this good sized one bedroom ground floor flat, which has been recently redecorated. this property would make a great first home or is ideal to downsize too being on one level. Call haart today to book your viewing. Ref 14329

Must View



Guide Price £220,000 - £230,000
Put Your Own Stamp On This EPC C
Milwards

In need of some TLC is this three bedroom middle terrace family home. The property is being sold chain free and is located within walking distance to local schools. Ref 14895

View Today



A Wonderful Home Offers In The Region Of £260,000
Blackbush Spring EPC D

Located in the Stow area of Harlow is this lovely and well presented two double bedroom tunnel terrace family home with large garden, the property has been subject to many improvements. Ref 14897

One Not To Miss



Guide Price £250,000 - £270,000
Long Banks
Spacious Family Home
EPC E

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- Detached Family Home
- 2/4 Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Utility Room
- Large Wrap Around Garden
- Part Furnished
- EPC Rating E
- * Admin Fees Apply
- Large Driveway
- Available Now
- Must be Viewed


MARKET HOUSE £1,450 PCM

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- Two Bathrooms
- Ground Floor
- Kitchen Appliances Only
- Close To Station & Shops
- Gated Property
- * Admin Fees Apply
- Available Now


ASHTREE FIELD £1,100 PCM

- Two Bed Terraced Home
- Popular Location
- Ground Floor
- Totally Refurbished
- EPC Rating D
- Available Now
- * Admin Fees Apply


BURY ROAD £1,195 PCM

- Three Bedroom House
- Old Harlow Location
- Stunning Property
- Integrated White Goods
- Council Tax Band C
- EPC Rating E
- Available Mid March
- * Admin Fees Apply


LOWER MEADOW £1,150 PCM

- Three Bedroom Family Home
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC Rating D
- Close to All Amenities
- Viewings Recommended
- * Admin Fees Apply
- Available Now


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- * Admin Fees Apply
- Modern Property
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- Large open view Sun Terrace
- Stunning views


ALEXANDER MEWS Offers in excess of £300,000

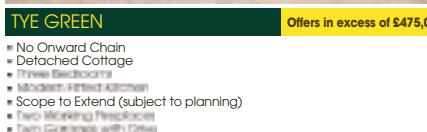
- Two Bedroom End of Terrace Home
- NO FORWARD CHAIN
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Lounge & Conservatory
- Over 55's only
- Viewing Recommended


STACKFIELD £299,995

- NO CHAIN
- Three Bedroom Family Home
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Conservatory
- Lounge Diner
- Gas Central Heating
- Close to Old Harlow

AYLESFIELD £255,000

- Two Bedroom Home
- Allocated Parking
- Modern Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
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- Lounge Diner
- Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Recommended


TYE GREEN
Offers in excess of £475,000

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- Detached Cottage
- Three Bedrooms
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- Scope to Extend (subject to planning)
- Two Months' Notice Required
- Two Garage with Driveway


THE HOO
£350,000

- Three Bedroom Extended Family Home
- Fitted Kitchen diner
- Conservatory
- Gas Central Heating
- No Onward Chain
- Popular Old Harlow Location
- Close to Schools, Shops & Train Station


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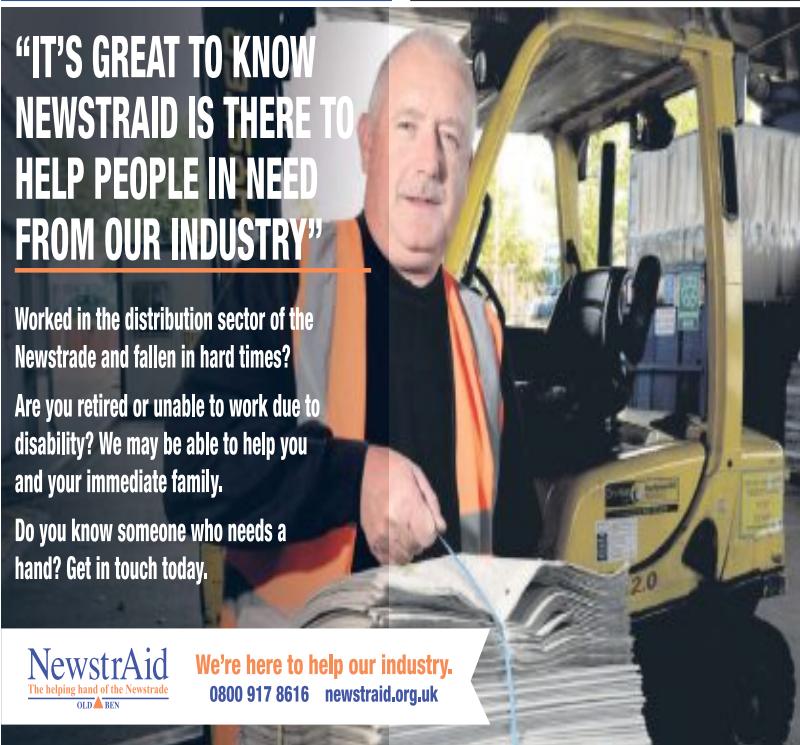
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Public Notices

Essex County Council

(Footpath 13, Harlow) (Temporary Prohibition of Use) Order 2018

Notice is hereby given that the above Order made by Essex County Council, under s14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has been continued in force with the consent of the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport until 6th August 2020. Effect of the order: To temporarily close that length of Footpath 13, Harlow from a point 50 metres north west of the junction with The Oxleys to its junction with Footpath 29.

The alternative route will be via: Old Road, Watlington Road, Gilden Way and vice versa.

The closure commenced on 6th August 2018 and is required for the safety of the public while development works are undertaken.

Essex County Council, Network Assurance, A2 Annex, Seax House, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

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Website: www.essex.gov.uk/highways

Dated: 31st January 2019

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Plans and Consultation) Directions 1992

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been received by Harlow District Council. These applications and others received can be inspected at Harlow Council Planning Services, Civic Centre, The Water Gardens, Harlow, Essex, CM20 1WG on Monday - Friday, 9am - 4:45pm. If you are unable to view the plans during these times, please telephone Planning Services on (01279) 446856 where a suitable appointment can be made with the relevant case officer.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Application No: HW/FUL/19/00012 Ward: Harlow Common
Application Type: Full Application

Location: Flat Block 18-27 And Surrounding Landscape Pytt Field Harlow Essex

Proposal: Proposed New Windows, Roof Coverings and Surrounding Landscaping

Reason for Advert: Harlow District Council Application
Local Public Interest

The Consumer Protection

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Pilham Wood, Sandy Lane, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1HF, who died on 17/01/2019, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 02/04/2019, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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TEST DRIVE

Honda Civic 1.6 EX Diesel Auto



AT A GLANCE

- Honda Civic 1.6 i-DTEC EX 9Auto
- Price: £26,620
- Mechanical: 118bhp 1,597cc 4cyl turbodiesel engine driving front wheel via 9-speed automatic gearbox
- Max Speed: 124mph
- 0 to 62mph: 11 seconds
- Combined mpg: 68.9
- Insurance group: 15E
- CO2 emissions: 109g/km
- BIK rating: 26%
- Warranty: 3yrs/90,000

TRADITIONAL VALUES

BY DAVE WARD

IT'S good to see that some car makers have at least snubbed the recent ill-informed criticism of diesel engined cars to keep producing them because they now have cleaner emissions and are far less harmful to the environment than ever before.

Adding to the opposition to the current trend of family cars being mini SUVs it's also good to see some car makers still in favour of the traditional four-door saloons and five-door hatchbacks.

Here Honda leads the way with their current and 10th generation Civic which has both saloon and hatchbacks on offer but also diesel power in the shape of a 1.6-litre 118bhp turbodiesel and, for the first time for the Japanese car maker, a fully fledged automatic gearbox with an oil burner.

Honda has invested a great deal of money in recent times to make their diesel engines cleaner and more efficient and they are clearly not going to waste all that cash just because some polarised critical views on diesel car engine by certain politicians and the like has tried to lure motorists away from buying them.

This latest 1,597cc four-cylinder turbodiesel in the Civic saloon has a low CO2 emissions of only 109g/km and on test proved the point that for those particular high mileage drivers it's exceptionally good value for the money returning 60.8mpg and with

the nine-speed automatic gearbox on board.

This automatic gearbox is probably the best of its kind in any current family hatchback/saloon with such a smooth and efficient gearshift (there are paddles mounted behind the steering wheel for those who prefer to make manual gearchanges) and its auto up and down gearchange is quick and seamless.

Obviously the auto box really comes into its own for both long distant cruising and also for com-

muting through heavy, stop/start city traffic making life so much more relaxing for the driver – you can keep the revs low too which again enhances the driving experience.

Honda engineers say the improved 1.6-litre turbodiesel engine benefits from having new pistons and Nox storage converter which helped to reduce emission and inside the cabin has cut noise and vibration.

Certainly it's a quiet four-door diesel saloon with tweaks to the suspension now making a better all

round ride, easily coping with many of our bumpy and uneven road surfaces, helped also by the now lower centre of gravity on the Civic which in turn makes it a more stable car out on the road.

Inside there's not too many changes from the previous model with an efficient seven-inch infotainment screen set up, really comfortable good lumbar supporting seats whilst obviously in the rear seats being a saloon there is slightly more head and leg room over the hatch-

back.

Typically Honda too is that it has loads of accident avoidance technology on board, such as forward collision warning, lane departure warning, adaptive cruise control and much more.

There are three trim levels with the Civic diesel automatic starting with the SE at £21,915 on the road, moving up to the SR at £23,760 and then the EX (tested here) at £26,620.

Naturally the same manual diesel trio are slightly cheaper as are the petrol powered Civics but the automatics will particularly appeal to those drivers clocking up the miles every week.

Opting for the EX as tested here and then obviously there's more standard kit on board such as heated front seats, leather trimmed interior (exceptionally good quality), blindsport detector, headlights with washers, heated rear seats and cross traffic monitor.

This latest Civic model has already received wide praise for not only its improved looks and better furnished cabin but for its cleaner and more efficient petrol and diesel engines.

SUVs may be all the rage at present but there's clearly still a sizeable proportion of drivers out there who still prefer the traditional qualities of a saloon or hatchback.

The automatic diesel is the obvious choice for those drivers covering many more miles than perhaps the average family driver does each week and it's a good, all round package for those who make that choice.



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(11) Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI Monte Carlo 5dr, in red, 1 previous owner, fsh, heated front seats, tinted glass	£5499 or £22pw
(62) Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v Design 5dr, in bronze, 7 seater MPV, 1 previous owner, tinted glass	£5999 or £25pw
(65) Vauxhall Viva 1.0 SL 5dr, in Carbon Black, 1 owner, fsh, Half Leather, Parking Sensors, Cruise and Climate control	£5999 or £25pw
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TEST DRIVE

Hyundai i30 Fastback N

STAR PERFORMER



BY CHRIS RUSSON

A SECOND performance model in joining Hyundai's stable in the UK with the arrival of an N version of the i30 Fastback.

On sale now, the hot Fastback comes with all the fun and thrills of the i30 N hatchback but in a body-style that adds class and practicality.

At £29,995 it is also high on value and costs just £500 more than the hatch equivalent.

Performance is just the same at 6.1 seconds 0 to 60 with a top speed of 155mph and the Fastback is rated at 34mpg under the new WLTP fuel testing regime. Emissions are 188g/km.

In the real world that figure is attainable but give the car some beans and its thirst increases significantly.

On mountain roads at the car's launch in Gran Canaria we saw an average of just 20 to the gallon while on the track consumption rose to single figures with the Fastback N showing just 9mpg on its trip computer.

But that's what happens when you let loose all the 275ps available from the 2.0-litre turbocharged engine that is tuned to perform in the most dramatic fashion.

Engage N mode – one of five drive settings available – and the i30 Fastback transforms from a potent everyday car into one of the finest performance models on the market.

It is more than a match for any hot Golf, Renault and even a Focus RS and the ride is as grippy as they come.

Factor in practical features such as

extra room in the rear and a 450 litre boot that can expand to 1,351 litres with the rear seats down and the Fastback N is in a class of its own.

Boot space is down slightly on that of the regular i30 Fastback and that is due to a strengthening bar fitted at the back to increase torsional rigidity.

Like the hot hatch the Fastback has been developed under the guidance of Hyundai's head of research and development Albert Biermann who joined the Korean car maker from BMW's fabled M division.

The Fastback N is the fifth derivative in the i30 range and like the others is built in Europe at Hyundai's factory in the Czech Republic.

The performance model is more than three seconds faster under acceleration than the mainstream i30 Fastback and the tweaks to the handling make it feel a totally different offering.

Dressed with distinctive red highlights on the front and rear bumpers and an N badge on the grille it actually sits a fraction lower than the regular Fastback.

It looks the part and the theme is continued inside with plenty of sporty features including a bespoke gear lever and an eight-inch touch-screen that can show a information ranging from navigation instructions to tyre pressures and even G force.

For the enthusiast it is packed to the hilt with de rigueur hot car features such as coloured brake callipers, red highlights around the facia vents, a black gloss edged rear spoiler on the boot lip and a triangular fog lamp in the centre of the rear diffuser between the exhaust pipes.

The sound conveys everything about the car – even when idling – but press the N button on the steering wheel and the noise crescendos blipping and crackling away.

But there is a serious side to the Fastback N with a slightly softer suspension than the performance hatch, a clever differential and torque

vectoring control all designed to deliver.

There is slingshot acceleration, great feel and precision from the steering and rev matching for accurate gear shifts making the Fastback N as much at home on the track as it is on the open road – the choice is down to the driver.

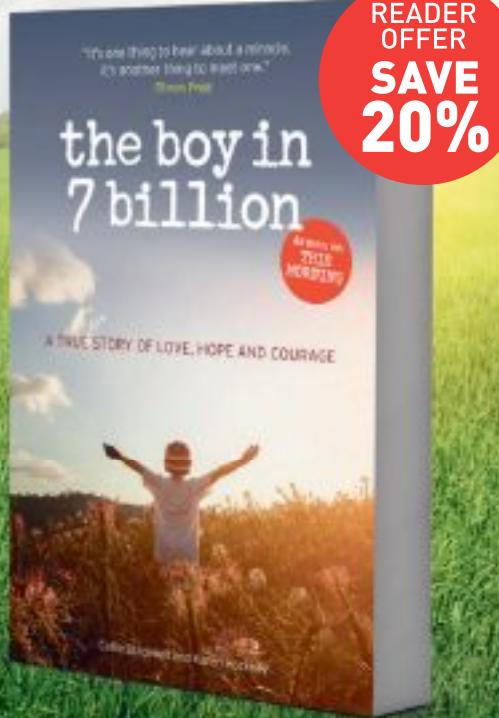
The Fastback N is the only performance coupe in the medium car market at the moment and that puts it in a niche of its own but one in which it should find appeal.

The hatchback model was voted best of its kind in the UK Car of the Year Awards in 2018 and the Fastback delivers the same.



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Owen and Sam enjoy success in Walsall

HARLOW Judo Club players Owen Lambert (13) and Sam Cobbin-Brown (12) travelled to Walsall to compete in the Midland Area Age Band Judo Championships.

Owen fought in the Pre-Cadet section and won all four of his fights - the first three with straight Ippon (maximum score) and the final round with Waza-ari (five points) to take gold.

Sam, also competing in the Pre-Cadets, battled hard in his first round but was outclassed. He won his second round, but defeat in the next fight saw him knocked out of the competition.



'There's work to be finished'

HARLOW Town manager Danny Chapman insists there is still a lot of work to be done before his side steer well clear of the Isthmian League Premier relegation zone and that they mustn't get carried away with their recent run of positive results, writes Callum Hibberd.

An entertaining second half saw Harlow beat in-form Lewes 2-1, maintaining their perfect home form for 2019 in the process.

A Nathan Koranteng penalty in the 63rd minute put the Hawks ahead, but the visitors equalised three minutes later, with Bexon's weak save putting it on a plate for Dayonne Golding.

However, a 75th minute goal from Drew Richardson, coupled with some fantastic saves late on from Bexon, gave Harlow three vital

points, which sees them climb out of the bottom three - although Wingate and Finchley directly below them, do have two games in hand.

"I'm really happy with the result - I don't think we were at our best but we dug in as a team," Chapman told Harlow Town FC TV. "In the first half we dropped off, but in the second half we made them go a little bit longer. We never got opened up at all, we looked half dangerous going forward."

"I know what we're capable of doing when we're right. We should have got something from the Dorking game last week."

"We've got six points out of the top three teams and we've got to take the positives from that."

"But let's not get carried away, we've still got a long way to go and

there's a lot of work to be done."

"We're capable of doing it [staying out of the drop zone] with the group of players we've got. We've got to move forward and can't dwell on what we've done. We've got to look at it game by game."

"It's a completely different team now - the thought processes and work ethic are different. All we can do is concentrate on the future games and make sure to get the most out of them."

Chapman also praised keeper Bexon.

"He's pulled off two fantastic saves and got us the win, and that's what the group is all about," he said. "Paul Rogers has also twisted his ankle, but he's got time to recover."

Harlow travel to Burgess Hill this Tuesday.



Goal-scorer Drew Richardson
MARTINE XERRI

Harlow's star duo qualify for National Schools finals event

TWO girls from the Apex Trampoline Club in Harlow have qualified for the National School Finals after tremendous displays in a regional competition.

Heather Cannon, who is a pupil at Mark Hall Academy, and Shannon Waterman, who represented Burnt Mill Academy, competed at the Zonal Schools trampoline competition in Hatfield.

Thirteen-year-old Heath (pictured right) took part in the Intermediate Year 7-9 age group and placed second, narrowly missing top spot by 0.2 points.

Shannon, also aged 13 (left) competed in the Elite Year 7-9 age group achieving first place.

Both booked their places at the Schools National Finals in March to be held in the Midlands.

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